

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Kayleen A. Niyo, Editor, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010 (kniyo@aol.com)

Ann Barker, Spring Bird Count Editor, 3204 Crestline Drive, Davenport, IA 52803 (AnnBarker4@aol.com)

Robert I. Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)

James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldecot@iastate.edu)

Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu)

James L. Fuller, Fall Field Reports Editor, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240 (james-fuller@uiowa.edu)

Matthew C. Keene, Spring Field Reports Editor, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511 (mckeckek6@connect.com)

FRONT COVER: Bullock's Oriole (first winter record and third overall) near Elk Horn, Shelby County, Iowa, 18 December 1999. Photo by T. H. Kent.

DESIGN: Lynn Ekblad, Ames, Iowa

GRAPHICS: Richard Beachler, Iowa State University, Ames
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Meet an Iowa Ornithologist: Bruce Ehresman

Hank Zaletel

To those who might not know Bruce, they might have deduced from his appearance — Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) baseball cap, Peregrine Falcon T-shirt, utility pants, and hiking boots — that he was an outdoor type of person. They also would have noticed a long, braided ponytail. When I asked Bruce about the ponytail, he stated that it was a symbol of the idealism he acquired in the early 1970s as a young man. Today, when he has to make a moral decision where he might stray from doing what is ethically right, he looks in the mirror and his ponytail serves as a reminder to him that he should do the right thing.

Bruce was born 12 October 1949 in Jones County near the town of Morley. The town is located seven miles south of Anamosa and is quite close to Muskrat Slough. He attended Morley Consolidated School through seventh grade and then attended Anamosa schools until his graduation in 1967.

He enrolled at the University of Northern Iowa with the intention of becoming a teacher. But, in 1969, he transferred to Iowa State University because he realized that he wanted to become a fish and wildlife biologist. He attended school until 1972 when he dropped out to discover who he was and where he was going. After several years of this quest, he returned to Iowa State and graduated with a degree in animal ecology in February of 1977.

Bruce met his future wife Marlene in the fall of 1972. They married in November of 1975. Within the past several years, she has graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and now works for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation as a program assistant. One of her focus areas is the forests of northeast Iowa and their commonality with neotropical songbirds. They have two sons, Dan and Drew, 21 and 18, respectively.

In the fall of 1977, he was hired by the Iowa Conservation Commission to work on the Wild Turkey Project with Galen and

Lloyd Crim in Lucas County. This was only a temporary project that lasted until 1980. Tom Rosburg was instrumental in sparking Bruce's interest in songbirds. They would get up early in the morning to do their gobbler survey routes. Tom pointed out the calls of the birds they heard. Bruce remembers that the first warbler that he identified was the Chestnut-sided.

One of his earliest childhood remembrances of birds was hearing and seeing a Great Horned Owl on their barn on a moonlit night in the winter. When he about ten, the local farmers would be out cutting "sour dock" and he remembers the distress of the Bobolinks and Red-winged Blackbirds that they had disturbed. Perhaps his most vivid memory occurred when he was in the barn and a Barn Owl flew in, an event today that would be very rare.

The Turkey Project ended in 1980 and Bruce was in the right place at the right time. He was hired by the DNR for a permanent position at the Wildlife Exhibit at the Ledges.

After one year, however, the decision was made to close the exhibit. He then was able to join the fledgling Non-Game Program, which also was located at the Ledges.

One of the first projects of the Non-Game Program was the attempt to reintroduce Barn Owls in the state. Beginning in 1982 and ending in 1987, the program released nearly 500 birds. By this time he was hooked on raptors. At the same time, a DNR Kestrel box program began utilizing road signs along the Interstate Highway System, a program so successful that over half the states in the United States have similar programs. Bruce believes that we lead the nation in the number of birds fledged from nest boxes. He estimated that on average 700 to 750 birds have been banded annually.

Bruce also is the state coordinator of the midwinter Bald Eagle survey. The state has 51 routes that are canvassed during the first two weeks of January. His rule of thumb is that if he is involved in a survey, he has to do at least one route himself. Currently, he monitors the Des Moines river between Ledges and LeHigh. This survey has documented the dramatic increase in the number of eagles in North America through the years.

The Peregrine Falcon program began in 1989 in Cedar Rapids and 1991 in Des Moines. Forty-two falcons have been released.



B. Ehresman

There are now two active nests of wild birds in these cities. Following these successes, the next goal has been to get birds to nest on the cliffs along the Mississippi River. Because of limited resources, this is not now one of the main focuses of the Non-Game Program. The program, however, does contribute monetary resources to those still involved with the falcons.

Bruce spoke of the raptor book that he is coauthoring with Dean Roosa and Jon Stravers. The artwork of Jim Landenberger of Cedar Rapids will be featured with personal, narrative accounts done by the authors. It will be a coffee table type of book of about 100 pages with the portrait on one side and the narrative on the other. He believes it will be completed during the coming winter.

The Breeding Bird Atlas was Bruce's introduction to Audubon clubs and the IOU. Bruce served as the DNR's manager of the project and worked closely with the IOU's representative, Carol Thompson. He thinks that without the Audubon clubs and the IOU, the project would never have been completed. Bruce personally surveyed 200 out of the 717 blocks. Bruce said the greatest thing about the project was the people he met while he was surveying the blocks and doing the field work.

Bruce cannot help but remember his first IOU meeting. It was held in Muscatine in the late 1980s. He was on a field trip led by Pete Petersen. There was a long line of cars following Pete. Suddenly, Pete jammed on the brakes and cars started jack-knifing left and right. A very rare, at least for eastern Iowa, Western Kingbird had been sighted and it was a miracle that no one collided or went into the ditch. Bruce stated that anyone who had witnessed this event would have thought that they were all crazy.

He was coauthor of the Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide with Jim and Steve Dinsmore and Laura Jackson in 1995. This project enabled him to visit and intensively study many natural areas of the state and to work closely with local DNR and county conservation board officials.

Bruce started a Bluebird trail at the Ledges in 1982. Close to 200 birds fledge annually. That adds up to over 3,000 Bluebirds in eighteen years. What an achievement!

In concluding, I would guess that the majority of IOU members have not been aware of the major contributions that Bruce Ehresman has made in avian studies and demonstration projects in Iowa. I hope that after reading this article, those who have not done so in the past will thank him for a job well done and wish him continued success in the future.

1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net)

Birding Areas of Des Moines

Robert I. Cecil

As Iowa's largest city, Des Moines is frequently visited for business, events, and shopping. A metropolitan area with over 350,000 people, it still has excellent birding opportunities, with some, such as Waterworks Park, just minutes from downtown (Figure 1). Even from the downtown area, birders may see Bald Eagles soaring in winter over the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers, or watch Peregrine Falcons that have been successfully introduced into the urban landscape. If your visit is to the state capital, check the grounds in summer for the Western Kingbirds that have nested there in recent years.



R. I. Cecil

WATERWORKS PARK/GRAYS LAKE/BROWN'S WOODS/DENMAN WOODS/WALNUT WOODS STATE PARK COMPLEX

The city of Des Moines is fortunate to have nearly 6 miles of green space that follows the meandering Raccoon River through the south central part of the city. While the areas are contiguous, they offer a variety of birding opportunities. Some of the areas are low and subject to flooding, especially Waterworks Park, Grays Lake, and Denman Woods.

Waterworks Park Following the Raccoon River for about three miles is Des Moines Waterworks Park, consisting of the Arie den Boer Aboretum, manicured grassy areas with scattered trees, riparian woodlands, ponds, and oxbow lakes. The area is most easily accessed from Fleur Avenue, about 2 1/2 miles north of the Des Moines Airport and just southwest of the downtown area. From downtown, follow Grand Avenue west until it angles south and crosses the Raccoon River bridge, becoming Fleur. From I-235, take the Airport/Martin Luther King exit and follow the signs to the airport along a circuitous and confusing route to Fleur (this route is scheduled for

reconfiguration in the future). Entering the area across from the Gray's Lake entrance takes you through the arboretum, which is noted for the spring bloom of a large grove of flowering crab trees.

At 1.3 miles from the entrance off Fleur Drive is the iron pedestrian bridge across the Raccoon River, a favorite birding spot. Crossing the bridge provides access to both riparian woods and thickets to the left, or to a grassy area with scattered large trees straight ahead. During spring migration, warblers can be abundant here, and it also is good for woodpeckers, thrushes, and flycatchers. With some luck, you may find one of the Pileated Woodpeckers that nest in the area. Nesting species include Wood Duck, American Redstart, Belted Kingfisher, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, and others. Near the iron bridge and on into the park are a number of sycamore trees. Yellow-throated Warblers can be found singing high in their treetops in late April, but nesting has not been confirmed.

At mile 1.7, the road forks. To the right, it continues along the Raccoon River. Here, additional small lakes can be checked for waterfowl and the woodlands can produce passerines.

At mile 2.7, another large loop begins by turning right at a parking area and small bridge. Immediately to the left there is a small marsh. This 1.5 mile loop traverses mature riparian forest and farther, large open areas containing soccer fields. After completing the loop, a right turn will return you to the fork at mile 1.7. Mississippi Kites are now scarce summer residents of Des Moines. They have been seen soaring over Water Works Park, although your chances of seeing one are iffy, at best.

Gray's Lake Directly across Fleur Avenue from Waterworks Park is Gray's Lake. This large lake is worth checking for gulls and waterfowl in spring, fall, and winter, and the adjacent strip of woods along the Raccoon River may harbor passerines. Gray's Lake is scheduled for major development as a recreation area, so the impact on birding remains to be seen.

Denman Woods Another part of this complex is Denman Woods, accessed by turning south off Grand Avenue at 31st Street. After about 0.5 miles, the road crosses the railroad tracks and angles left, becoming Edwards Avenue and then right, becoming SW 31st Street. It travels thorough a riparian woodland which, in wet years, features Prothonotary Warblers. About halfway down this dead end road is a

grassy trail blocked by a chained gate, the entrance to "Lost Planet." A moniker given by locals to this rather surreal spot, Lost Planet is a lime dump once used by the Des Moines Waterworks. While it is mostly dry and barren, during rainy periods it can offer shorebirds and ducks, and at the far corner is an area that usually has water. A trail circles Lost Planet and can be good for passerines, diurnal raptors, and owls. Continuing on down SW 31st is a cul de sac. Walking to the right takes you past riparian woodland, woodland edge, and brushy areas. A second part of the Lost Planet area is much more interesting in terms of its potential for shorebirds, herons, and rails. Instead of turning right on 31st St., continue straight for 0.1 mile to where the road bends to the left, becoming SW 29th. Park here, cross through a metal gate, and visit the large marshy area just up the hill.

A second access to Denman Woods is via Greenwood Park/Ashworth Park, the location of the Science Center of Iowa, south on 45th Street from Grand Avenue. The parks, consisting of one of the city's remaining Burr Oak savannahs, are worth checking. The road passes a small, marshy pond and a swimming pool before ending at a large parking lot. Continuing on from the parking lot is the Bill Riley Trail. In spring and summer, the deep woods here may produce Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, thrushes, and other woodland species. Pileated Woodpecker has nested behind the Science Center. The trail crosses two railroad tracks and then angles east along the Raccoon River.

Walnut Woods State Park Walnut Woods State Park is a 300-acre facility in the southwest corner of the Des Moines metro area. This open walnut woodland along the Raccoon River is most conveniently accessed by taking I-35 south to Exit 68 (also Highway 5 or the airport exit), going 0.5 miles east, then left 1.3 miles to the park entrance. This park is not heavily frequented by birders, but is good for spring migrants (over 20 species of warblers in one day), and in summer for woodland species such as Eastern Wood Pewee, Carolina Wren, and Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireo.

Brown's Woods Forest Preserve An island of deep forest and dense understory, Brown's Woods is one of the premier locations in south central Iowa to look for several uncommon to rare species, including Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Kentucky

Warbler, Ovenbird, Summer Tanager, and Scarlet Tanager. Well maintained paths provide easy access to this 484-acre preserve. To get to this area, continue on from the first entrance to Walnut Woods State Park (directions above) 1.5 miles to 11th Street. Go left on 11th, which then curves to the right, becoming Brown's Woods Drive. Continue 0.7 miles to the preserve entrance. Another access is from I-235. Take the SW 63rd Street/ Highway 28 Exit south 3.5 miles, turn right on Brown's Wood's Drive, and continue 0.2 miles to the entrance.

Terra Lake An unlikely birding hot spot is the diminutive Terra Lake in the suburban community of Johnston just north of Des Moines. Over the past three winter seasons, it has produced Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, Greater Scaup, and Oldsquaw, as well as virtually all of Iowa's regular waterfowl species. Barrow's Goldeneye, Black Scoter, Little BLue Heron, and Sabine's Gull have also visited this location. Its resident Canada Geese and Mallards usually keep some water open throughout the winter, making it a refuge for wandering birds. The easiest access is from I-35/80. Take Exit 131, Merle Hay Road. Go north on Merle Hay 0.6 miles to Pioneer Parkway and after another 0.4 miles, turn left on Crown Point Road. A second access point is just past Crown Point Road at the Iowa Public Television offices.

Dale Maffitt Reservoir Constructed over 50 years ago as a water source for the City of Des Moines, Dale Maffitt Reservoir and 1,358 acre park offer a spacious and serene setting to check several birding habitats. To visit, take Exit 68 (as for Brown's Woods/Walnut Woods above), but go right (west). After 0.3 miles, go right at the "T" intersection and continue on a short distance to the lake. The first entrance leads to a large open woodland and Burr Oak savannah, which is good for migrant warblers, woodpeckers, and Eastern Bluebirds. Adjacent fields and fence rows should be checked for sparrows. The 200-acre lake itself rarely produces large numbers of migrant waterfowl, but in spring and fall is one of the best spots in the Des Moines area for Common Loon.

The second entrance is just across the dam and offers a less mature woodland habitat plus dogwood thickets and other brushy areas. Continuing on foot past the end of the access road, there are conifer groves that might be checked in winter for owls and winter

finches. For the more intrepid, this trail completely circles the back side of the lake.

Glendale Cemetery The largest cemetery in Des Moines, Glendale consists of acres of rolling hills covered primarily by mature conifers, making it the best spot in the city to look for winter finches. While there have been no major finch invasions in the past few years, it has continued to be a reliable location for Pine Siskin and Red-breasted Nuthatch. During invasion years, it has produced both crossbills, Evening Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, and others. As a birding area, its value is not limited to winter — in spring and fall it can be excellent for warblers and, to a lesser extent, sparrows. Glendale Cemetery is reached from the downtown area by exiting I-235 at 42nd Street in Des Moines, going north about 1 mile to University Avenue, then left about a mile (past 48th Street) to the entrance on the right.

Easter Lake Easter Lake Park is a 454-acre facility that includes the 171-acre Easter Lake. While this area is not heavily birded, it and adjacent Ewing Park offers, in addition to the lake, open woodland and edge for passerines and sparrows. Easter Lake should be checked for waterfowl and often features wintering or migrant Trumpeter Swans. It is accessed from I-235 by taking the SE 14th Street/ Highway 69 exit south for 2.8 miles, then turning left on Indianola Road. Continue 1.5 miles, passing Ewing Park, and then left on Easter Lake Road 0.8 miles to the entrance.

East 30th Street Ponds These privately owned quarries and borrow areas must be birded from the road, but because they often have some open water in winter and have domestic waterfowl and Canada Geese to function as decoys, they frequently attract other waterfowl. From downtown, go east on Grand Avenue about 3.5 miles (there is a fork at about 2 miles — stay right) to East 30th Street, an entrance to the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Go right 1.1 mile to the ponds.

OF RELATED INTEREST

Within easy driving distance of Des Moines (an hour or less) are some of Iowa's most noteworthy birding areas. They have been described in these previous *Iowa Bird Life* birding area articles:

Birding Areas Update — Warren County, Vol. 55:2
Birding Northern Polk County for Shorebirds, Vol. 59:3
Birding Saylorville Reservoir and Big Creek State Park, Vol. 60:1
Birding the Red Rock Area, Vol. 60:4
Birding Story County's Prairies and Wetlands, Vol. 62:1

1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)

Birding Areas of Des Moines

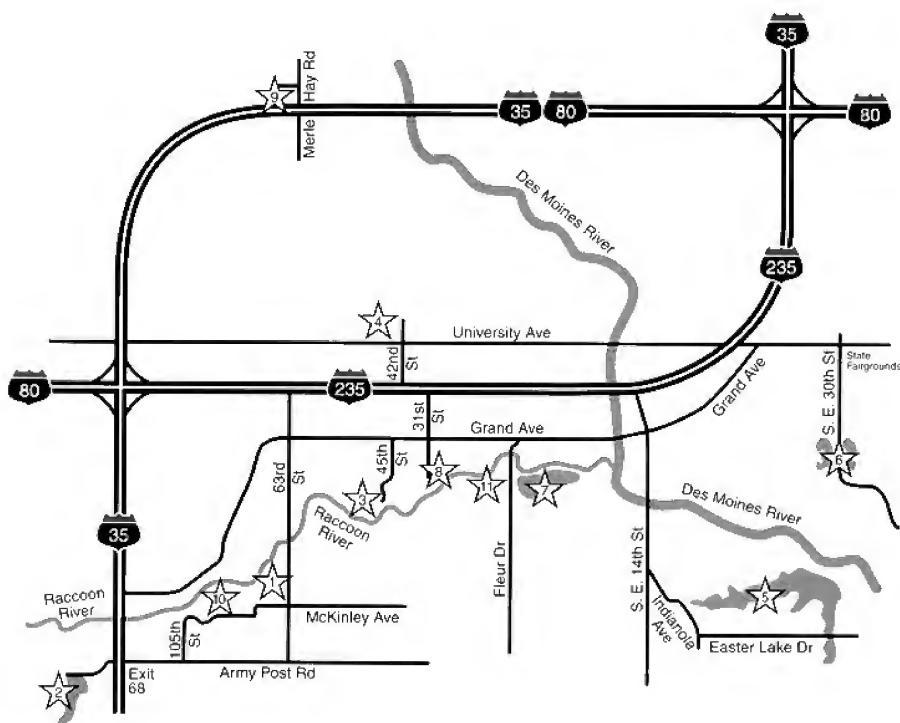


Figure 1. Location of birding areas in Des Moines: (1) Brown's Woods Forest Preserve; (2) Dale Maffitt Reservoir; (3) Denman Woods; (4) Glendale Cemetery; (5) Easter Lake; (6) Southeast 30th Street Ponds; (7) Gray's Lake; (8) Lost Planet; (9) Terra Lake (10) Walnut Woods State Park; (11) Waterworks Park

Christmas Bird Count, 1999–2000

Stephen J. Dinsmore

The 1999–2000 Iowa Christmas Bird Count included 41 counts (Figure 1, Table 1), up from 39 in 1998–1999. There was one new count this year (Union County) and Ida County returned after a brief absence. These 41 counts recorded a total of 125 species, slightly below the average of about 130 species over the last ten years. The total number of birds counted was 509,645, up 15% from 1998–1999.

Like last year, fall was unseasonably mild, and this weather pattern continued into mid-December. The count period was generally seasonable, except for a brief period of bitter cold weather just before Christmas. Counts conducted on the first weekend experienced mild weather and extensive open water. This was the year of parity with six counts reaching the 80s, the most ever in a single year. Leading the way was Burlington with 85 species, followed closely by Keokuk (84) and Davenport, Saylorville Reservoir, and Rathbun (83 each).

Counts along the Mississippi River generally were very good, helped by open water and an abundance of waterbirds. In addition to Burlington, Keokuk, and Davenport, Clinton (78) had an excellent count total. The top Missouri River counts were De Soto NWR and Omaha (74 each). Counts in the Northern Third were about average, led by Spirit Lake (58). Counts in the Middle Third were also about average. Saylorville Reservoir was the top count, although Iowa City (75), Des Moines (73), and Ames (63) all had excellent totals for their counts. Rathbun (83) was tops in the Southern Third, followed closely by Red Rock Reservoir (80). This year, the average count had 14 observers in 6 parties and found 58 species. These figures are almost identical to last year.

REGULAR SPECIES

The following discussion refers to species listed in Tables 2 and

3. To put the information in perspective, I have often compared this year's totals with the average yearly total for all Iowa CBCs over the previous ten years. But that effort (the number of CBCs conducted) also has varied over this time period, causing comparisons across years to be less straightforward. Reports of rare species are listed in Table 3.

Waterbird numbers were generally very good this year, although many species were not as abundant as in 1998–1999. Pied-billed Grebe numbers were excellent (24), second only to last year's record 71. The only other grebe was a single Horned Grebe at Keokuk. For the first time since 1989–1990, no American White Pelicans were found, a surprise for such a mild count period.

Conversely, a total of 66 Double-crested Cormorants was reported, well above the average of 28. Great Blue Herons were also present in good numbers (118), well above the average of 79. Most (103; 87% of total) were along the Mississippi River.

It was another banner year for waterfowl. Snow Geese rebounded from several low years with 32,233 reported. As expected, most (31,587; 98% of total) from Missouri River counts. This is the

highest Snow Goose total since 1992–1993. Totals of 5 Greater White-fronted and 6 Ross's Geese were about normal. Canada Geese had another excellent year with 47,071 birds, well above the average of 29,000; Westfield was the only count to miss this species. Swans were numerous with 11 Trumpeter and 118 Tundra swans. As expected, most (102; 86% of total) Tundra Swans were along the Mississippi River, but they were as far west as Omaha (11) and Spirit Lake (5). Other waterfowl totals were generally above average and included record counts for Wood Duck (73), Northern Shoveler (489), Northern Pintail (273), Redhead (127), Ring-necked Duck (2,145), Lesser Scaup (1,904), Bufflehead (555), Hooded Merganser (343), and Ruddy Duck (2,180). Several other species, including Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Canvas-back, and Common Merganser, were well above their 10-year averages. Mallard, the most widespread wintering duck in Iowa, was missed on only two counts this year. Common Goldeneyes were notably scarce, probably because of the abundant open water. Only 2,287 were found this year, well below the 10-year average of 4,141.



S. J. Dinsmore

Among the rare waterfowl, there were 18 Greater Scaup, a single Black Scoter, 4 Oldsquaw on 3 counts, and 41 Red-breasted Mergansers.

Despite the abundance of open water, a good total of 1,559 Bald Eagles was reported, slightly above the 10-year average. Typically, this species is most numerous when there is significant ice cover along the major rivers and reservoirs. For the second consecutive year, Northern Harriers (100) were present in above average numbers; they were most numerous in southern Iowa.

Accipiters were present in good numbers this year, especially Sharp-shinned Hawks (72), which set a new record high. The number of Cooper's Hawks (40) was also above average, but only one Northern Goshawk was found. The last major Northern Goshawk irruption was in 1992–1993 when 16 were found.

Red-tailed Hawks were especially numerous this year with 1,885 reported, well above the average of 1,394. The 112 at Dubuque were an excellent total. It was a poor year for Rough-legged hawks with only 105 reported, down from the 10-year average of 136. American Kestrels (633) were present in good numbers, slightly above the 10-year average. Totals of 6 Red-shouldered Hawks, 3 Golden Eagles, and 3 Merlins (2 *richardsonii* and 1 of unknown race) were about average. Oddly, there were no reports of any of the larger falcons except for an undocumented report of a Peregrine Falcon.

Gallinaceous birds were a mixed bag this year. Gray Partridge continue to barely survive with only 19 reported, well below the 10-year average of 112. Ring-necked Pheasants (1,021) were present in low numbers, possibly because of a lack of snow cover on many counts. But the news about Wild Turkeys was very good. A total of 2,072 was reported this year, well above the 10-year average of 925. They were found in all parts of the state, although the lowest numbers were unexpectedly in the Southern Third. Most were in the Middle Third (678; 33% of total) and along the Mississippi River (509; 25% of total) and they were missed on just eight counts. Northern Bobwhite also continued to slowly rebound from lows in the early 1990s. This year, 89 were reported, most (57; 64% of total) along the Mississippi River with a few scattered across the southern half of the state.

American Coots had a banner year with 1,073 reported on 18 counts statewide, well above the 10-year average of 145. Three counts (Princeton, Keokuk, and Spirit Lake) accounted for 85% of this total. Shorebirds had a record year. Killdeer (112) set a new

record high and were well above the 10-year average of 22. Surprisingly, most (54; 48% of total) were in the Middle Third, although good numbers (43; 38% of total) were found at expected locations along the Mississippi River. Common Snipe (85) were also present in record numbers with the majority (67; 79% of total) along the Mississippi River. The 10-year average is 29.

It was a good year for gulls in terms of overall numbers, but a poor year for diversity with only 4 species reported. Ring-billed Gulls (29,472) were slightly above the 10-year average of 25,470, but Herring Gulls (1,835) were well below the 10-year average of 3,908. Not surprisingly, most gulls were along the Mississippi River and at counts centered on the four large reservoirs (Saylorville, Red Rock, Rathbun, and Coralville). Besides the two common gull species, there were only 4 Bonaparte's and 6 Thayer's Gulls found this year.

Although they are usually not mentioned in this report, Rock Doves (11,223) had their best showing since 1989–1990 and were well above the 10-year average of 9,732. Mourning Doves (3,457) set a record high count this year, well above the 10-year average of 2,363. Most (1,889; 55% of total) were along the Mississippi River, the usual stronghold for this species in winter. Owl numbers were generally low this year. Eastern Screech-Owls (89) were slightly below the 10-year average of 100. Great Horned Owl numbers (168) were the second lowest ever, only one more than in 1998–1999. Barred Owls were the only owl present in above average numbers. Both Long-eared (17) and Short-eared (3) owls were at or near record low levels this year, probably indicative of poor vole numbers. Single Northern Saw-whet Owls were found on three counts, but this total is well below those of the late 1980s and early 1990s. The total of 108 Belted Kingfishers was normal; most (44; 41% of total) were found along the Mississippi River.

Woodpeckers were a mixed bag this year. Red-headed Woodpeckers had another poor showing with only 69 reported, far below the 10-year average of 344. This low total reflects another poor acorn crop this winter. Conversely, Red-bellied Woodpeckers (1,495) were present in record numbers, well above the 10-year average of 1,230. Northern Flickers (501) were scarce this year, well below the 10-year average of 604. As expected, most (156; 31% of total) were found along the Missouri River, but good numbers were also in the Middle Third (149; 30% of total). Average numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Pileated Woodpeckers were found this year. Shrikes also were a mixed bag. Loggerhead Shrikes were scarce with only 7

reported, about half the 10-year average of 13. All of these were in the southern half of the state. Northern Shrikes were present in record numbers (44), well above the average of 22. Most of these were found in northern Iowa, although 2 were as far south as Rathbun.

Blue Jays (2,716) were scarce this year, well below the 10-year average of 4,485. The poor acorn crop probably helps to explain this low total. It was a good year for Horned Larks (6,674), well above the 10-year average of 2,730. Snow cover on many of the counts probably moved these birds to roadsides where they were more easily counted. Black-capped Chickadees (6,751) rebounded from last year's record low total, but were still below the 10-year average of 7,509. But Tufted Titmouse (936) numbers increased and were well above the 10-year average of 780. It was definitely an invasion year for Red-breasted Nuthatches (300), well above the 10-year average of 190. Good numbers were found statewide, especially in the Middle and Northern thirds. Both White-breasted Nuthatch (2,434) and Brown Creeper (319) were present in average numbers. For the second consecutive year, wren numbers were above average, probably because of the mild fall weather. Carolina Wrens (49) were present in average numbers, but Winter Wrens (29) were found in record numbers, well above the 10-year average of 16. Roughly half of the total for each species was found on Mississippi River counts. Not surprisingly, a single Marsh Wren was found at Shenandoah in exactly the same location where one was found in 1994–1995.

It was a banner year for Golden-crowned Kinglets (261), a new record count and well above the 10-year average of 124. They were found statewide, but most (102; 39% of total) were found in the Middle Third. The only Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Saylorville Reservoir. Frugivorous birds were a mixed bag this year. Eastern Bluebirds (188) reached their highest total since 1992–1993 and an excellent total of 6 Hermit Thrushes was found. Contrast this with American Robins (656), which were well below the 10-year average of 1,346. Cedar Waxwings (2,315) were present in average numbers. A lone Brown Thrasher was at De Soto NWR and single Yellow-rumped Warblers were found on two counts.

Sparrows generally made a strong showing this year. Surprisingly, the only towhees were single Eastern Towhees on two counts. American Tree Sparrows (15,213) were present in average numbers. Only 3 Field Sparrows were found, well below the 10-year average of 15. Totals of 2 Savannah Sparrows, 1 Vesper Sparrow, and 3 Lincoln's

Sparrows were noteworthy. Totals of all of the larger sparrows, including Fox, Song, Swamp, White-throated, Harris', and White-crowned, exceeded the 10-year averages. The biggest surprises were White-throated (334, a new record count) and Harris' (379, the highest total since 1989–1990) sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco (24,107, the second highest total ever). After seeing the high count for Horned Larks, it was not surprising that Lapland Longspurs (2,528) were seen in above average numbers, but Snow Buntings (575) were found in only average numbers. As expected, most (285; 50% of total) Snow Buntings were found in the Northern Third.

Contrary to last year, icterid numbers were generally above average this year. The lone exception was Red-winged Blackbird, with slightly below average numbers found this year. Meadowlarks made a strong showing (517), nearly twice the average of 280. Most (368; 71% of total) were found along the Missouri River, their usual winter stronghold in Iowa. Six meadowlarks at Red Rock Reservoir were identified as Westerns by call note. If possible, observers should try to identify winter meadowlarks by call notes or careful descriptions of the rectrices. Rusty Blackbirds (114) and Common Grackles (1,331) set 10-year high counts, and Brown-headed Cowbirds (2,867) set an all-time high count. Surprisingly, no Great-tailed Grackles were found this year. I believe more winter records of this species can be anticipated as they continue to solidify their range in Iowa.

Winter finches were generally scarce this year, except for Purple Finches. The total of 909 Purple Finches is far above the 10-year average of 543 and second only to the 1990–1991 total. Good numbers were found statewide with most in the Middle Third (361; 40% of total) and along the Mississippi River (241; 27% of total). House Finch numbers (2,524) were also slightly above the average of 2,127, perhaps an indication that they continue to increase in Iowa. The only crossbill was a single White-winged at Jamaica, not surprising in an off year for crossbills. The total of 31 Common Redpolls was disappointing. Late fall reports from the Dakotas, Minnesota, and several Great Lakes states indicated a strong flight for this species, but this apparently fizzled before reaching Iowa. The last major redpoll irruption was in 1997–1998. Both Pine Siskins and America Goldfinches were present in below average numbers. Eurasian Tree Sparrows continue their presence in southeastern Iowa. They were detected on five CBCs, all along the Mississippi River, as far north as Andalusia.

NOTABLE MISSES

There were several notable misses this year, including American White Pelican (first miss since 1989–1990), Peregrine Falcon (5 of last 10 years), Prairie Falcon (6 of last 10 years), Glaucous Gull (first miss since 1982!), Black-legged Kittiwake (5 of last 10 years), Gray Catbird (5 of last 10 years), Northern Mockingbird (7 of last 10 years), Spotted Towhee (first miss since 1987–1988), Great-tailed Grackle (5 of last 10 years), and Red Crossbill (8 of last 10 years).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

This year, there were a number of unusual species reported. Many were waterbirds that lingered due to the unseasonably mild fall period. One new species was added to the Iowa all-time CBC list—a juvenile Yellow-billed Loon at Ames, which was present for some time prior to the count. Other good finds included a Common Loon at Red Rock Reservoir (8th CBC record), single Black-crowned Night-Herons at Cedar Rapids and Saylorville Reservoir (3rd and 4th CBC records), a Marsh Wren at Shenandoah (5th CBC record), a Common Yellowthroat at Burlington (4th CBC record), and single Savannah Sparrows at Burlington and Saylorville Reservoir (2nd and 3rd reports in the last 10 years). The all-time Iowa CBC list now stands at 204 species.

Unfortunately, reports of a few species were deleted again this year. The majority of counts do an excellent job of providing supporting details for rarities, but a small number of counts continue to report birds without any substantiating details. I received an interesting report of two male Blue-winged Teal showing white facial crescents. Blue-winged Teal are in eclipse plumage in December, and thus lack the white facial crescents. I suspect the birds may have been immature male Northern Shovelers, which can show some white on the face and have a similar upperwing pattern to a Blue-winged Teal. I also had a report of an Osprey again this year. Personally, I am skeptical of all winter reports of this species in Iowa. To the best of my knowledge, there is still no firm evidence (e.g., photo or specimen) that this species has occurred in Iowa during the months of December, January, and February. I wish someone would prove me wrong about their winter status in Iowa! Multiple Merlins were reported from two counts without details, and an undocumented Peregrine Falcon was reported from one count. There were two reports of Loggerhead Shrikes from the northern half of the state,

neither with any details. Most winter shrikes in the northern two-thirds of Iowa are Northern. Finally, an unlikely Smith's Longspur in alternate plumage was reported from the Nebraska portion of the Omaha count.

This year, an interesting problem arose when two good birds were discovered after the respective local CBCs. The two species were a Cape May Warbler at Cedar Rapids and a Pine Warbler at Des Moines. In both cases, it was later determined that the birds were seen on count day. It is my opinion that including these birds post-count is not in the spirit of the CBC. A Christmas Bird Count is meant to be a *sample* of birds within a specified area on a single day. It is not a *census*, which implies that we acknowledge missing some birds. The problem that arises is that the effort expended to see that bird on count day was probably either omitted or incorrectly calculated. This causes future problems when these data are analyzed. Consequently, I believe such birds should be only included as count week birds.

Despite my plea last year, the De Soto NWR count circle was moved this year. This is too bad because the new count is no longer comparable to the old count. This was a very shortsighted move, which goes against the spirit of the Christmas Bird Count. Compilers considering moving count circles should first consider starting a new count.

Finally, I commented last year about the correct calculation of party hours. I suspect some compilers are still making errors with this calculation. For example, the Sac County count reported 14 observers in four parties, but only nine total party hours. If each party was in the field for just over two hours, then this calculation is correct. But I suspect that the nine hours is the time that every party, or perhaps only the most active party, spent afield, so that the total number of party hours is too low. Please take care to ensure that party hours are calculated correctly.

612 1/2 West Magnolia Street, Fort Collins, CO 80521
(dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu)

Table 1. Site Data for 1999–2000 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total		Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow Depth	Wind	
		Species	Birds	Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	Hr	L			H
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River For	29 Dec	56	4924	12	8	52	245	17	4	35	1	1	30	49	5	S 5-15
2. Dubuque	18 Dec	48	9609	25	8	50	298	22	3	13	3	4	4	20	1	NW 0-8
3. Clinton	16 Dec	78	12537	9	4	38	415	9	6	61	0	0	12	25	1	SW 15-25
4. Princeton	17 Dec	64	6008	6	4	34	405	11	3	28	1	2	21	24	1	SE 10-20
5. Davenport	19 Dec	83	27607	21	8	63	402	24	8	73	8	9	19	35	1	S 0-10
6. Andalusia	27 Dec	62	3961	6	3	24	313	2	2	7	0	0	21	28	5	NW 5-15
7. Muscatine	26 Dec	71	14449	12	5	42	509	7	5	41	7	7	27	40	5	NW 20-40
8. Oakville	22 Dec	57	7395	7	4	36	295	3	4	37	0	0	14	20	2	W 5-15
9. Burlington	17 Dec	85	7594	10	4	40	238	30	3	29	7	29	19	34	1	E 0-5
10. Keokuk	20 Dec	84	63094	11	7	56	492	15	0	0	1	4	18	36	0	SW 10-20
MISSOURI RIVER																
11. Sioux City	18 Dec	68	16715	28	11	62	554	25	1	2	4	14	19	27	1	SE 14-23
12. De Soto NWR	19 Dec	74	18134	16	7	56	300	22	2	9	0	0	15	25	4	N 10-20
13. Omaha, NE	18 Dec	74	12604	32	13	72	368	28	2	2	3	2	15	34	0	NW 0-10
14. Shenandoah	18 Dec	69	55054	17	4	34	273	14	1	3	3	12	9	28	3	SSE 10-20
NORTHERN THIRD																
15. Decorah	27 Dec	53	5871	13	5	34	300	9	1	5	4	4	9	19	5	N 5-20
16. Bremer County	18 Dec	43	5383	5	3	17	240	4	1	12	0	0	4	23	1	calm
17. Mason City	18 Dec	50	11224	14	6	46	356	14	1	3	10	14	3	24	0	SW 0-10
18. Spirit Lake	18 Dec	58	7393	15	5	37	328	8	0	0	22	31	19	20	2	S 15-20
19. Cherokee	18 Dec	40	3204	5	4	31	215	4	1	11	1	5	16	22	2	S 8-15
20. Westfield	2 Jan	26	850	2	1	8	90	1	1	1	0	0	27	33	1	NE 5-20

MIDDLE THIRD																
21. Lost Nation	20 Dec	53	5849	14	5	35	424	5	2	20	0	0	10	15	5	NW 15-25
22. North Linn	28 Dec	52	4632	11	5	39	423	13	2	14	3	15	10	40	2	SW 10-20
23. Cedar Rapids	18 Dec	73	17171	18	8	71	393	24	4	30	6	10	0	23	1	NW 0-10
24. Iowa City	19 Dec	75	13448	29	10	72	617	27	3	22	14	62	25	33	1	S 0-5
25. Amana	26 Dec	41	1623	10	3	1	120	8	1	5	0	0	25	30	3	NW 15-25
26. Ced Falls-Water.	19 Dec	54	11362	11	5	30	347	7	1	6	0	0	16	29	1	NW 0-5
27. Grinnell	2 Jan	26	1713	7	2	32	45	25	2	5	2	14	29	38	0	W 5-20
28. Marshalltown	28 Dec	37	2744	13	5	34	414	3	0	0	6	24	21	41	2	NW 10-15
29. Eldora-Union	22 Dec	38	2447	4	3	24	248	3	1	10	3	?	5	10	4	NW 5-10
30. Ames	18 Dec	63	16619	31	14	80	427	41	4	33	8	16	6	29	1	SSE 0-10
31. Boone County	1 Jan	58	8538	37	17	105	513	56	5	50	16	68	30	45	0	E 0-10
32. Saylorville	19 Dec	83	29582	25	10	74	434	31	4	31	0	0	23	33	3	W 5-25
33. Des Moines	26 Dec	73	23963	13	6	38	252	24	2	3	5	20	28	39	4	NW 15-25
34. Jamaica	21 Dec	60	11681	11	5	35	457	7	0	0	0	0	-8	12	4	SW 5-10
35. Sac County	2 Jan	27	1345	14	4	9	100	3	0	0	4	3	28	32	1	WNW 0-20
36. Ida County	1 Jan	42	3491	4	4	25	288	5	0	0	3	4	28	37	0	calm
SOUTHERN THIRD																
37. Van Buren County	29 Dec	34	3549	1	1	10	156	4	3	28	0	0	19	51	0	W 0-10
38. Jefferson County	1 Jan	35	763	3	1	6	62	1	0	0	1	1	40	48	0	calm
39. Rathbun	18 Dec	83	22590	28	8	59	636	11	7	52	5	15	18	30	2	ENE 0-10
40. Red Rock Res.	18 Dec	80	31105	10	6	41	371	11	1	3	1	10	10	29	1	S 6-12
41. Union County	24 Dec	51	3752	2	1	8	133	1	0	0	0	0	6	31	3	W 0-5
TOTAL													509,645			

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1999-2000

Location	Pi Bi Gr	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Gr WF Go	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tu Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma
MISSISSIPPI RIVER												
1. Yellow River Forest			1			53		1		1	22	821
2. Dubuque			2			619				3		959
3. Clinton		2	69	1		1,923	97	15	34	47	37	2,449
4. Princeton			9			372	3	5	10		5	1,754
5. Davenport	2	11	3			1,675	1	14	26	5	10	1,501
6. Andalusia						319					3	211
7. Muscatine			3	1		288		1	12		4	929
8. Oakville			5			220		3	2			80
9. Burlington	2	1	9		2	925	1	2	20	2	2	707
10. Keokuk	2	3	2			985		5	27		2	816
Subtotal	6	17	103	2	2	7,379	102	46	131	58	85	10,227
MISSOURI RIVER												
11. Sioux City			1		172	353		1	67	13	1	8,076
12. De Soto NWR		1	1		5,695	1,620		2	2			3,523
13. Omaha, NE	2		1		420	627	11		12			730
14. Shenandoah			1		25,300	33		8	2	2	4	24,950
Subtotal	2	1	4	0	31,587	2,633	11	11	83	15	5	37,279
NORTHERN THIRD												
15. Decorah						147						14
16. Bremer County			1			265						510
17. Mason City						1,994						2,463
18. Spirit Lake		1			2	2,916	5		16			184
19. Cherokee						85		4			1	140
20. Westfield												
Subtotal	0	1	1	0	2	5,407	5	4	16	0	1	3,311
MIDDLE THIRD												
21. Lost Nation					27	2,214					1	21
22. North Linn						263					3	165
23. Cedar Rapids	2	1				2,902		2	12	6	11	2,957
24. Iowa City	1	9	1		1	1,306		1	67	10	2	5,337
25. Amana						24						3
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	1					1,474			1		1	1,248
27. Grinnell						1,125						56
28. Marshalltown						130						34
29. Eldora-Union						120						
30. Ames	1			2	601	810		1				43
31. Boone County						10						9
32. Saylorville Reservoir	3	2				1,019		1	11		18	9,429
33. Des Moines			1		3	4,346		2	12		6	1,029
34. Jamaica					2	4,700		2	19	2	7	3,170
35. Sac County						200						200
36. Ida County					1	1,354						59
Subtotal	8	12	3	2	635	21,997	0	9	122	18	49	23,760
SOUTHERN THIRD												
37. Van Buren County						3,000						250
38. Jefferson County						26						2
39. Rathbun Reservoir	2	5	6		6	2,018			109	5	5	13,082
40. Red Rock Reservoir	3	30		1		3,710		3	110		2	2,432
41. Union County	3		1		1	901			1			256
Subtotal	8	35	7	1	7	9,655	0	3	220	5	7	16,022
TOTAL	24	66	118	5	32,233	47,071	118	73	572	96	147	90,599

No Sh	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me
			5				1				15	
2								2			128	
266	14	288	1,051	40	96	3	881	393	1	14	30	
2			19		8		1	17	11		64	
	4	1	2	19	27		102	26	272	19	9	
			1	2	1		2		40		12	
2				1			3		44		462	2
									20		219	
21			46	6	53		327	20	112	14	43	11
18		2	19,396	28	1,863	11	315	54	701	41	386	2
311	18	291	20,520	96	2,048	14	1,632	512	1,201	88	1,368	15
	2	7	1	8	7		2		43	1	13	
		9			1		46		189		69	
	1	6	5				29		83	7	14	
13	217	9	1	3	58		11	1		1	1	
13	220	31	7	11	66	0	88	1	315	9	97	0
											1	
1	2		1		2		2			1		
3			33	11		3	48	2	185	2	174	2
4	2	0	34	11	2	3	50	2	185	3	175	2
							1				25	
1									55	26		
55			2				49	1	78	19	137	
1			1				2			6	2	4
					1					1		
28	7	43			5		3	1	102	36	2,135	
3	2	1	1	1			1		41	5	40	
2	8				4		5	1	9	3	2	
90	17	44	4	1	10	0	61	3	285	96	2,341	4
							4					
21	4	1			5	1	33	37	67	62	1,394	10
50	12	6	34	8	32		31		227	85	7,637	10
			2		1		5		7		1	
71	16	7	36	8	38	1	73	37	301	147	9,032	20
489	273	373	20,601	127	2,164	18	1,904	555	2,287	343	13,013	41

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1999–2000

Location	Ru Du	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	Ac Sp	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha
MISSISSIPPI RIVER									
1. Yellow River Forest	1	94	2	1			2	78	12
2. Dubuque		81	1		7			112	7
3. Clinton	212	69	1	2	1			50	3
4. Princeton		113						28	1
5. Davenport	5	75		1	2			62	
6. Andalusia		57	1		1			40	3
7. Muscatine	2	131	2	3	4			49	4
8. Oakville		73	6		1			40	4
9. Burlington	45	104	1	3	1			59	4
10. Keokuk	1,844	150	4	3	3		1	52	3
Subtotal	2,109	947	18	13	20	0	3	570	41
MISSOURI RIVER									
11. Sioux City		1	2	3	1			57	3
12. De Soto NWR		59	15	2	1	1		77	6
13. Omaha, NE	5	6	2	7	2		1	93	
14. Shenandoah		13	16	2	4			20	
Subtotal	5	79	35	14	8	1	1	247	9
NORTHERN THIRD									
15. Decorah		35	1	1	1			78	10
16. Bremer County		2	1	1				25	1
17. Mason City		3			1			24	
18. Spirit Lake	7	2	1	1		1		6	
19. Cherokee		4	1	1				21	2
20. Westfield				2	1			12	6
Subtotal	7	46	4	6	3	1	0	166	19
MIDDLE THIRD									
21. Lost Nation		104	9	1	1	1		37	10
22. North Linn		57	1	3			1	49	4
23. Cedar Rapids		32			4			83	
24. Iowa City	1	50	6	2		1		68	1
25. Amana		11	1	1				8	2
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		9		1			1	31	1
27. Grinnell			1	1				6	
28. Marshalltown		10	1					18	1
29. Eldora-Union		8						43	3
30. Ames		7	1	14	2			62	
31. Boone County		23	1	5	1			80	6
32. Saylorville Reservoir	3	27	5	4	3			70	
33. Des Moines	2	37		2				38	1
34. Jamaica	14	6						47	1
35. Sac County		2						10	
36. Ida County								27	1
Subtotal	20	383	26	34	11	2	2	677	31
SOUTHERN THIRD									
37. Van Buren County		11						4	
38. Jefferson County		3	3					12	1
39. Rathbun Reservoir		27	12	4				65	1
40. Red Rock Reservoir	36	63	2	1				100	3
41. Union County	3							44	
Subtotal	39	104	17	5	0	0	0	225	5
TOTAL	2,180	1,559	100	72	42	4	6	1,885	105

Am Ke	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Am Co	Ki	Co Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu
7	6	46			2	1			
16	6	140		8	2		1,379	2	
14		30		22	17	2	1,190	45	
23	20	96	3	300		1	246	33	
46	2	7	1	49	7	2	4,745	598	1
17	2	8	11				13	9	
31	11	90	8		1		561	40	
4		22	21		6	25	74	2	
36	12		5	12	1	15	495	1	
19		70	8	181	7	21	2,300	24	
213	59	509	57	572	43	67	11,003	754	1
11	25	125			2	1			
16	104	158				2	13	1	
18	5	101	5	7	1		58	1	
25	42	2	1	9		2			
70	176	386	6	16	3	5	71	2	0
1	23	383			2	1			
6	4	15							
2	36	2							
1	137	1		435			4	23	
	17	11							
7	4								
17	221	412	0	435	2	1	4	23	0
13	39	184				2			
27	69	45				1			
24	121	70		3	12	1	1,297	16	
37	21	134		18	5		167	15	
2	8	12			1				
7	12	9					8		
3	1								
10	21	2							
3	71	51							
16	57			2	17	1	1	1	
25	24	52	17				2		
25	36	60	4	3	14	5	3,246	214	1
19	6	9		1	5		316	344	1
11	36	50		5					
4	2								
8	13								
234	537	678	21	32	54	10	5,037	590	2
4		1	3					3	
18	1								
47	3	62	5	10	5	2	832	43	1
13	6	24		7	5		12,525	420	2
17	18			1					
99	28	87	5	18	10	2	13,357	466	3
633	1,021	2,072	89	1,073	112	85	29,472	1,835	6

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1999–2000

Location	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo
MISSISSIPPI RIVER									
1. Yellow River Forest	296	114	5	5	4		5		40
2. Dubuque	612	52	2				13	1	40
3. Clinton	387	46	2	4	1		2		30
4. Princeton	80	76	2	7	2		1	2	28
5. Davenport	2,197	739	4	14	17		10	10	109
6. Andalusia	349	100	6	4	2			1	30
7. Muscatine	1,044	321	9	6	6		3	2	57
8. Oakville	309	161	5		4		1		50
9. Burlington	277	180	2	2	5		4	1	44
10. Keokuk	197	100	2	1	4		5	7	63
Subtotal	5,748	1,889	39	43	45	0	44	24	491
MISSOURI RIVER									
11. Sioux City	643	9	1	5					24
12. De Soto NWR	192	119	5	8	2	2	1		67
13. Omaha, NE	131	26	5	3	2		4	1	118
14. Shenandoah	64	27	1	6	5	2		3	37
Subtotal	1,030	181	12	22	9	4	5	4	246
NORTHERN THIRD									
15. Decorah	358	42	3				4		33
16. Bremer County	334	8	1	2	2		1	2	12
17. Mason City	183	19	1	4			1		10
18. Spirit Lake	1	14	1				1		15
19. Cherokee	196	17	1	2			1		7
20. Westfield	34	1	1						3
Subtotal	1,106	101	8	8	2	0	8	2	80
MIDDLE THIRD									
21. Lost Nation	136	27	3	8	2		1	7	25
22. North Linn	148	18	3	11	7		1	3	33
23. Cedar Rapids	296	435	5	14	9		6	2	68
24. Iowa City	228	115		3	6		4	12	72
25. Amana	15	10	1	2	1		1	4	12
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	541	97	1	2	3		1	1	16
27. Grinnell		6		2					6
28. Marshalltown	194	44			1		1	1	19
29. Eldora-Union	80	7		4	1	1	1		14
30. Ames	461	55	1	7	6		7		67
31. Boone County	249	7	9	20	7		8		120
32. Saylorville Reservoir	121	76	3	5	5	8	3		56
33. Des Moines	369	99	1	3	1		7		33
34. Jamaica	52	8		2		2	1	1	26
35. Sac County	45			1					5
36. Ida County	124	4				1			6
Subtotal	3,059	1,008	27	84	49	12	42	31	578
SOUTHERN THIRD									
37. Van Buren County	7	6		3				2	6
38. Jefferson County	27	48			1		1		3
39. Rathbun Reservoir	84	107	3	6	6		5	3	28
40. Red Rock Reservoir	114	81		1	4	1	3		53
41. Union County	48	36		1				3	10
Subtotal	280	278	3	11	11	1	9	8	100
TOTAL	11,223	3,457	89	168	116	17	108	69	1,495

Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Lo Sh	No Sh	sh sp.	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La
	54	17	3	14				76	257	9
	65	16	26	3		1		68	411	
	38	7	5	1				57	408	54
	52	12	5			1		56	64	50
4	190	38	12	4	1			113	3,174	21
	39	2	12	2		1	1	50	109	119
	88	35	20	2				95	556	175
	61	17	4	4	1			66	256	281
1	45	7	14	3				165	842	69
1	82	7	24	4				116	20,000	118
6	714	158	125	37	2	3	1	862	26,077	896
	79	14	18			4		49	642	524
	91	5	65			1		61	134	329
	156	15	61	1				93	251	2,587
	38	17	12				1	85	28	34
0	364	51	156	1	0	5	1	288	1,055	3,474
	39	14	1	1		3		87	613	56
	15	3	1	1		3		36	446	
	41	12	5			4		80	2,816	
	68	20	2					43	88	28
	12	1	1			1		9	312	824
	2					1		4	30	15
0	177	50	10	2	0	12	0	259	4,305	923
	43	6	5			2		94	418	75
	82	14	13	5		2		100	226	5
1	157	37	15	7		1	1	119	1,666	67
	139	33	26			1		99	551	56
	18		2					20	30	4
	39	12	1	1		1		19	5,020	
	11	5	6					13	86	
1	34	8	3					25	245	
	23	8				2		35	64	61
	157	23	5			2		116	8,000	87
	226	63	12			3		78	928	
	85	17	19			5		69	339	375
	80	15	19			1	1	25	12,500	26
	20	2	17					97	171	394
	23	4	2					15	39	
	20	2	4			2		59	282	60
2	1,157	249	149	13	0	22	2	983	30,565	1,210
1	2	1	2					4	77	2
	9	1	2					17	82	
1	65	17	27		4	2		172	302	12
	68	4	22		1		1	82	223	37
	17	3	8					49	136	120
2	161	26	61	0	5	2	1	324	820	171
10	2,573	534	501	53	7	44	5	2,716	62,822	6,674

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1999–2000

Location	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. Yellow River Forest	227	22	1	97	9		2
2. Dubuque	284	77	10	92	14		
3. Clinton	111	14	1	44	8	2	3
4. Princeton	117	20	3	32	8	1	1
5. Davenport	423	62	11	181	42	6	3
6. Andalusia	119	26	4	46	3		
7. Muscatine	210	74	1	77	10	3	
8. Oakville	101	20		47	2	1	
9. Burlington	145	62	7	24	4	3	5
10. Keokuk	144	66	2	44	27	10	
Subtotal	1,881	443	40	684	127	26	14
MISSOURI RIVER							
11. Sioux City	190		4	75	14		2
12. De Soto NWR	224	19	6	62	9		1
13. Omaha, NE	353	63	10	204	17	10	
14. Shenandoah	65	4	2	50	5		3
Subtotal	832	86	22	391	45	10	6
NORTHERN THIRD							
15. Decorah	147	12	7	46	6		1
16. Bremer County	64	1	1	12	2		
17. Mason City	132		23	44	7		
18. Spirit Lake	178		6	66	6		
19. Cherokee	75		9	15			
20. Westfield	17			1	1		
Subtotal	613	13	46	184	22	0	1
MIDDLE THIRD							
21. Lost Nation	90	16	2	35	3		
22. North Linn	248	25	9	85	9		
23. Cedar Rapids	610	85	58	164	17	5	
24. Iowa City	413	82	18	115	13	5	1
25. Amana	25	4		6	1		
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	102		5	35	3		
27. Grinnell	19			16			
28. Marshalltown	78	3	10	29			
29. Eldora-Union	22	1	1	18	1		
30. Ames	469	8	29	131	21		3
31. Boone County	564	67	15	258	21		3
32. Saylorville Reservoir	187	10	1	84	11		1
33. Des Moines	190	31	6	64	7	2	
34. Jamaica	56	2	1	26			
35. Sac County	47			15	1		
36. Ida County	16		3	9	4		
Subtotal	3,136	334	158	1,090	112	12	8
SOUTHERN THIRD							
37. Van Buren County	9	3		7	1	1	
38. Jefferson County	15	7	4	4	1		
39. Rathbun Reservoir	125	39	17	35	5		
40. Red Rock Reservoir	119	11	4	24	3		
41. Union County	21		9	15	3		
Subtotal	289	60	34	85	13	1	0
TOTAL	6,751	936	300	2,434	319	49	29

Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Eu St	Ce Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp
4				1,016	3	216		10	12	
4	9		3	1,366	18	123		16		5
8	7		3	783	60	137		34	4	2
4				687		218		6	12	8
6			2	4,041	17	413	1	154	26	32
2	7			418	24	578	1	19	1	13
4	7		16	2,873	60	686		39	23	17
	3	1	28	2,975	27	552		33	2	2
3	17		13	640	200	128		10	2	17
15	19		3	8,267	134	263	4	51	9	52
50	69	1	68	23,066	543	3,314	6	372	91	148
	2		4	2,931	20	617		8		1
6	4		15	1,781	18	114		38	9	17
19	21		297	1,874	68	722	1	56		21
13				1,035		925		43	14	6
38	27	0	316	7,621	106	2,378	1	145	23	45
3			7	404	45	410	2	1		3
				1,157		552				
1			30	792	75	62		1		15
				528		537		6		
	7			316	49	178		1		
	7			188		116				
4	7	0	37	3,385	169	1,855	2	9	0	18
9		1		495	1	462		5	1	
6			3	681	155	348		7		5
4		1	19	1,113	2	778	9	19		17
50	8	1	23	1,410	296	251	2	26	3	39
				14	15	75		1		1
			1	1,315		123		5	4	
			1	118		39		1		
			1	704	11	77				
				277		475				
12			51	1,461	82	744	9	28		15
3	3		1	1,733	13	537	4	63	2	14
16	10	1	13	5,266	488	1,550	1	98	20	21
1	30		23	2,000	8	239		26		8
1				345	110	349		5	4	
				306		14				
				504		262		1		
102	51	4	135	17,742	1,181	6,323	25	285	34	120
			1	24						
	5			179	19	38		4		
50	10		1	531	207	525		18	5	
7	19	1	1	449	1	660		51	6	
10			97	788	89	120	1	6		3
67	34	1	100	1,971	316	1,343	1	79	11	3
261	188	6	656	53,785	2,315	15,213	35	890	159	334

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1999-2000

Location	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	Me Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER								
1. Yellow River Forest			483			103	2	
2. Dubuque			819			208		
3. Clinton			303		3	100	1	
4. Princeton			334	23	82	117		1
5. Davenport		2	1,676	2	5	567	102	
6. Andalusia		1	456	8	3	95		
7. Muscatine		3	1,051	2	30	257	97	
8. Oakville			560	134		135		
9. Burlington			330	10		132	49	1
10. Keokuk	5	50	621			194	582	
Subtotal	5	56	6,633	179	123	1,908	833	2
MISSOURI RIVER								
11. Sioux City	35		604	260		30	2	10
12. De Soto NWR	62		696	1		107	587	91
13. Omaha, NE	61		1,738	81		179	4	155
14. Shenandoah	38		811			99	133	112
Subtotal	196	0	3,849	342	0	415	726	368
NORTHERN THIRD								
15. Decorah			1,636			207	8	
16. Bremer County	2		328			35	125	
17. Mason City	4		535	80	250	59		
18. Spirit Lake			262	31	35	25	320	
19. Cherokee	11		188	151		14		
20. Westfield			87			1	300	
Subtotal	17	0	3,036	262	285	341	753	0
MIDDLE THIRD								
21. Lost Nation			474	2	6	194		
22. North Linn			260			170	109	2
23. Cedar Rapids		1	1,220			487	1	
24. Iowa City		16	463			385	35	
25. Amana		3	50			26		1
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			363			64	12	
27. Grinnell			79			19		
28. Marshalltown	1		287			87	1	
29. Eldora-Union	3		430	67		112	51	
30. Ames	47	1	1,184			197	3	
31. Boone County	38	4	1,265	1		313	6	
32. Saylorville Reservoir	25	3	1,097	1,394	30	350	492	3
33. Des Moines	3		667			109	2	38
34. Jamaica	9		1,108	186	1	114	1	21
35. Sac County			103			22		
36. Ida County	15		106	35	20	10		8
Subtotal	141	28	9,156	1,685	57	2,659	713	73
SOUTHERN THIRD								
37. Van Buren County			10			7		
38. Jefferson County			43			8	29	
39. Rathbun Reservoir	2	4	407	2	70	150	90	47
40. Red Rock Reservoir	13	8	559	13	40	121	64	
41. Union County	5		414	45		24	1	27
Subtotal	20	12	1,433	60	110	310	184	74
TOTAL	379	96	24,107	2,528	575	5,633	3,209	517

Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Co Re	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
1	2		20	34			135	455	
	1	2	16	100			147	1,511	
	1	68	20	31			111	290	
2	6	96	10	59		12	86	528	
		1	17	238		8	233	3,237	
7	19	1,320	6	22			56	441	22
	12		23	292			244	1,820	76
3	4	150	14	13			79	501	105
	994	114	115	55	2	40	106	359	175
13	1,039	1,751	8	131		24	240	893	53
			249	975	2	84	1,437	10,035	431
10	8	2	21	47		31	249	597	
	2	1	61	7		1	188	301	
	15		5	158	2	10	195	549	
1	222			41			39	278	
11	247	3	87	253	2	42	671	1,725	0
	1		21	51		41	138	716	
	8	5		11		20	33	1,329	
		1	63	65			30	1,235	
1	3	14	13	34			17	821	
			1	9		2	12	502	
							7	2	
1	12	20	98	170	0	63	237	4,605	0
1		1	19	47			44	396	
32		13	167	27		10	83	850	
	5	33	4	233	5	141	174	1,353	
		1,000	19	116		6	169	518	
	2	1		2			25	200	
			3	54			39	655	
			2	7			80	5	
			12	82			142	416	
	2			39		9	44	294	
23	19	2	6	78		14	107	1,246	
1	1	26	65	75		10	251	1,184	
16		13	18	1			172	436	
	1	1	6	49		15	123	855	
	1		31	47			136	225	
			3	12		1	48	221	
1	2		6	15		6	14	473	
74	33	1,090	361	884	5	212	1,651	9,327	0
			6	4		2	34	53	
			8	9			42	91	
15		1	43	129	22		266	935	
		1	6	84		2	126	376	
		1	51	16			47	265	
15	0	3	114	242	22	4	515	1,720	0
114	1,331	2,867	909	2,524	31	405	4,511	27,412	431

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Iowa CBCs, 1999–2000

Species	Counts
Yellow-billed Loon	Ames (1)
Common Loon	Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Horned Grebe	Keokuk (1)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Cedar Rapids (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Turkey Vulture	Ida County (1)
Ross's Goose	De Soto NWR (2), Shenandoah (2), Red Rock Reservoir (2)
Trumpeter Swan	De Soto NWR (4), Mason City (6), Lost Nation (1)
Swan sp.	Ida County (2)
Black Scoter	Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Oldsquaw	Keokuk (2), Des Moines (1), Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Northern Goshawk	Rathbun (1)
Golden Eagle	Decorah (3)
Merlin	Shenandoah (1), Des Moines (1), Union County (1)
Gray Partridge	Mason City (2), Cedar Rapids (13), Jamaica (4)
Ruffed Grouse	Decorah (2)
Bonaparte's Gull	Clinton (2), Keokuk (1), Rathbun (1)
Short-eared Owl	Clinton (1), Boone County (1), Rathbun (1)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Yellow River Forest (1), Iowa City (1), Boone County (1)
Marsh Wren	Shenandoah (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Brown Thrasher	De Soto NWR (1)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Cedar Rapids (1), Ames (1)
Common Yellowthroat	Burlington (1)
Eastern Towhee	Cedar Rapids (1), Iowa City (1)
Field Sparrow	Oakville (1), Decorah (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Savannah Sparrow	Burlington (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Vesper Sparrow	Iowa City (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Andalusia (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1), Des Moines (1)
Western Meadowlark	Red Rock Reservoir (6)
Brewer's Blackbird	Omaha (1), Cedar Rapids (22)
White-winged Crossbill	Jamaica (1)

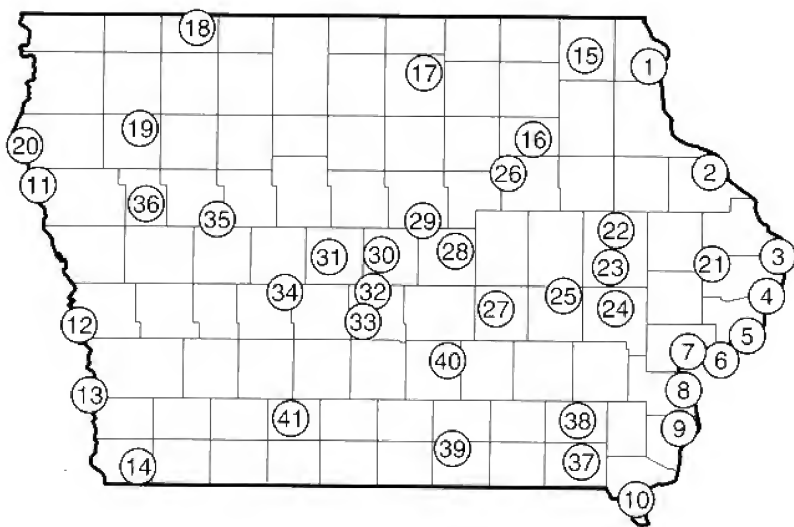


Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 1999–2000.

Field Reports, Winter 1999–2000

Robert I. Cecil and Ann M. Johnson

WEATHER

It was almost a rerun of last year. The biggest difference was that last season, it was cold in January. The comparison, based on 127 years of reporting:

	December	January	February
1999–2000	39th warmest	41st warmest	10th warmest
1998–1999	20th warmest	76st warmest	9th warmest

It did get cold a few times, with a December low of -21 on the 22nd in Spencer, a January low of -17 on the 20th in Mason City, and a February low of only -3 on the 2nd in Maquoketa. High temperature for December was 62 on the 2nd in both Burlington and Fairfield; for January, 60 on the 2nd in Burlington; and for February, 71 on the 25th in Burlington and again on the 28th in Sioux City. On the down side, as of January, precipitation was below normal for the sixth consecutive month. February precipitation was above normal, but certainly not enough to make up the accumulated deficit. While this had no apparent impact upon this winter's birds, it could be a factor this coming spring.



R. I. Cecil

GENERAL TRENDS

We have had three consecutive warm winters, and it is interesting to compare the species that have been enticed to linger or to return early. This year, the most conspicuous among a number of lingering passerines were the four species of warblers (five if you count the more expected Yellow-rumped found on 2 CBCs): Orange-crowned, Pine, Cape May, and Common Yellowthroat. The three mimids, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, and Brown Thrasher, were reported, as was Marsh Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Pipit, and two species of Orioles. Among the semihardy passerines, only

Eastern Phoebe and Le Conte's Sparrow comes to mind as being missing. Water birds were more normal in their departure dates, the exceptions being a huge lingering flock of Ruddy Ducks in Keokuk, Sandhill Cranes, and, for the third year, two Black-crowned Night Herons, of which one, the Cedar Rapids bird, evidently made it through the winter. Regarding other groups, it was an unexciting year for gulls and winter owls, and, of course, it was another off-year for winter finches; only Purple Finch and Pine Siskin made a good showing.

By comparison, the 1998–1999 season featured lingering grebes, Sandhill Crane, shorebirds, but not as many passerines. The 1997–1998 season had grebes, Sandhill Crane and, to a lesser extent, mimids and sparrows. As expected, in all three seasons ducks and icterids were in the vanguard of returning migrants. This season, with the exception of Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and Eastern Meadowlark, arrival dates were more normal. In 1998–1999, noteworthy was the arrival of a number of duck species in early February.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

It was an average year for good birds. The only accidental species reported were the second state record Yellow-billed Loon, a Whooper Swan whose origin will be questioned, Ferruginous Hawk, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Black-billed Magpie, and Bullock's Oriole, whose status in Iowa is not yet well known. No casual species were reported.

SPECIES DATA

(* = documented)[] = record date

Common Loon: All: 1 on 11 Dec at West Okoboji in Dickinson Co. (LAS), 1 on 11 Dec in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 13 Dec at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 3 on 14 Dec at Red Rock Res in Marion Co. and 1 there on 18 Dec for the CBC (AB-details).

Yellow-billed Loon: Iowa's second state record of this species was an immature that appeared on 1 Dec at Little Wall L. in Hamilton Co., where it stayed until 12 Dec (JJD-details, RIA-photo, *THK, *MPR, *JLF, *CE). Presumably the same bird reappeared a few miles to the south

on 14 Dec in Story Co. at Hallett's Quarry in Ames (*SJD, *JJD). It was last reported on 21 Dec.

Pied-billed Grebe: All: 1 on 16 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 3 on 17 Dec at Easter L. in Polk Co. (AB), 2 from 25 Dec to 21 Feb at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (CE, MCD), 1 on 31 Jan in Ottumwa (AB), 2 on 26 Feb at Greenfield L. in Adair Co. (MPR), 2 on 26 Feb at Black Hawk L. in Sac Co. (PE), and 1 on 26 Feb at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. (BE).

Horned Grebe: All: 1 on 4 Dec at Little Wall L. (CE, MPR), 1 on 7 Dec at Saylorsville Res. (AB), 1 on the Keokuk CBC on 20 Dec (SJD-details), and 2 on 8 Jan at Rock Creek S.P. in Jasper Co. (JLF).

American White Pelican: Of the three December reports, two were from extreme northern Iowa: 1 on 10 Dec at Mud L. in Clay Co. (Marty Eby fide JJD), and 1 on 17 Dec at Marble L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS). Returning birds were represented by 10 on 26 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Double-crested Cormorant: Of the six reports, the largest numbers by far were at Red Rock Res., with 36 on 18 Dec (SJD) and 23 on 23 Dec (AB). The only report after December was 1 on 7 Jan at Cedar L. (MCD).

Great Blue Heron: December yielded five reports of single birds from around the state. The only January report was of 5 on 8 Jan at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (THK). The 12 birds on 19 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC) were returning.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: In a surprising repeat of last year's performance, two birds again were reported: 1 throughout the period at Cedar L. (m.ob), and another on 19 Dec on the Saylorville CBC (*RIC). This is the third consecutive year with two winter reports of this species.

Turkey Vulture: Making a rare CBC appearance was 1 on 1 Jan in Ida Co. (Kristen Leu-details). Returning birds included 1 on 23 Feb in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA), 9 on 26 Feb in Polk Co. (RIC), 1 on 26 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ), and 1 on 29 Feb in Winneshiek Co. in extreme northeastern Iowa (Steve McCargar fide DeC).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Overwintering was one at Terra L. in Polk Co. (BE, DT). January/early February reports include 7 on 16 Jan at Lewis and Clark S.P. in Monona Co. (PE) and 2 on 6 Feb at Cedar L. (MCD). Migrants began returning to the state beginning with 1 on 19 Feb. in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and with peak counts of 200 on 22 Feb at Forney L. in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP), 220 on 26 Feb at Elk Lake M. in Clay Co. (LAS), and 150 on 27 Feb. at Hawkeye W.A. in

Johnson Co. (CE). Michael Dooley provided details on the 2 birds at Cedar L., identifying them as the Greenland subspecies and providing a well-constructed argument that they may have been of wild rather than domestic origin.

Snow Goose: There were 200,000 on 5 Dec at Hitchcock W.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (MOR). Only small numbers lingered into mid-January, the peak being 17 on 30 Dec in Monona Co. (SJD). Migrants began returning on 22 Feb with 2,000 in Waubesa S.P. and 10,000 at Riverton A. in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP), 1,500 on 26 Feb at Don Williams L. in Boone Co. (KJ), and 1,000 to 2,000 on 27–29 Feb at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (CE, THK). Overwintering were 3 at Terra L. (BE, DT).

Ross's Goose: All: 4 on 5 Dec at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 2 on 18 Dec. at Red Rock Res. (SJD-details), 1 on 6 Jan and 15 Jan at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), 1 on 26 Feb in Adams Co. (PHA/RIA), 15 on 26 Feb at Silver L. in Palo Alto Co. (LSA), 1 on 26 Feb at Mitchell M. in Union Co. (MPR), and 4 on 27 Feb at Holstein in Ida Co. (PE). The Allens had four species of geese (Canada, Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Ross's) in one field at L. Icaria in Adams Co. on 26 Feb.

Canada Goose: There were five reports of over 1,000 birds from throughout the season, primarily in the southern half of the state.

Mute Swan: All: 1 ad. from 2–13 Dec at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. (MPR, JLF), 1 on 1–6 Jan at Mason City in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe, RGo), 1 on 1 Jan at Des Moines (BE), and 1 ad. on 1 Jan through 13 Feb at Cedar L. (MCD-details, CE, JLF).

Whooper Swan: A report will be referred to the records committee.

Trumpeter Swan: There were about 12 records of this increasingly frequent species. Top counts include 22 on 4 Dec in an enclosure in Webster Co. (LAS), 13 on 21 Dec to 20 Feb in the Saylorville

Res./Big Creek S.P. area (SJD, DT, BE, AB), and 6 on 1 Jan at Mason City (RGo). Most of these birds were marked.

Tundra Swan: The high count was 11 on 18 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP, LJP) and the last was 1 on 1 Jan at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (THK-details). There were three other reports of 5 to 6 birds in Tama, Johnson, and Dickinson counties.

Wood Duck: There were nine reports throughout the season of from 1 to 4 birds, about half from the northern half of the state.

Gadwall: The peak count was of 184 on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res (BE). As expected, small numbers wintered around the state. Migrants began returning on 19 Feb with 5 at Louis and Clark S.P.; peak counts were 50 on 22 Feb in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP) and 40 on 29 Feb in Johnson Co. (THK).

American Wigeon: The only midwinter report was of 1 on 2 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi). Migrants began appearing throughout the state in the last week of February, beginning with 3 on 19 Feb in Monona Co. (PE). The peak was 40 on 27 Feb at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (CE).

American Black Duck: There were about 14 reports that were very evenly distributed through the period and throughout the state. Reports of more than 10 include 11 on 19 Dec and Saylorville Res. (SJD), 13 on 13 Jan at Cedar L. (MCD), and up to 16 from 5-12 Feb in Dubuque (PE). A Black Duck/Mallard hybrid was reported in Cherokee Co. on 22 Jan. (PE).

Mallard: There were only a few reports of this common wintering species. The highest counts were 3,000 on 8 Jan at Rathbun Res. (BE) and 5,000 on 29 Feb at Coralville Res. (THK).

Blue-winged Teal: There were 6 on 26 Feb near Swan in Marion Co. (PBy-details) [second earliest].

Cinnamon Teal: Very early was 1 on 22-24 Feb at the Marshalltown Cemetery in Marshall Co. (MPr, PHA/RIA) [record early].

Northern Shoveler: Midwinter reports include 1 on 5-6 Jan at Mason City (CJF, RGo), 1 on 6 Jan-10 Feb at Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. (MPr), 30 on 31 Jan in Ottumwa in Wapello Co. (AB), and 1 on 4 Feb through the period at Black Hawk L. (PE). Returning migrants were noted beginning 22 Feb; the top count was 30 on 29 Feb in Johnson Co. (THK).

Northern Pintail: Presumably wintering were 2 on 15 Jan at the MidAmerican Energy ponds (BKP/LJP), 2 on 23 Jan at Terra L. (BE), and 1 on 5 Feb on the Raccoon R. in Polk Co. (MPr). By far, the highest counts were 2,000 on 26 Feb on Lost Island L. in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), and 500 on 29 Feb at Coralville Res. (THK).

Green-winged Teal: Midwinter reports include 1 on 6 Jan in Mason City (RGo) and 18 on 21 Jan at the MidAmerican Energy ponds (BKP/LJP). A few birds were returning by the end of the period.

Canvasback: As usual, the big counts were from the Mississippi R. in Lee County, with 18,346 for the CBC on 20 Dec (SJD), and up to 15,000 on 9 Jan (THK, CE). Diving ducks here move up and down the river depending upon the availability of open water. Small numbers were reported from elsewhere: 5 on 11 Dec at Port Neal (BFH), 1 on 30 Jan at Swan L. S.P. (SJD), 1 on 5 Feb at Maffit Res. in Dallas Co. (MPr), 6 on 20 Feb at Lake Manawa (BKP/LJP), and 18 on 29 Feb at Port Neal (BFH).

Redhead: The only midwinter report was 1 on 16 Jan in Johnson Co. (MCD). Migrants began appearing on 20 Feb with 2 at Lake Manawa (BKP/LJP) and 25 Feb with 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF). Several groups of from 20 to 40 birds were reported from 26 Feb through the period.

Ring-necked Duck: The peak count by far was 1,818 on 20 Dec. at the Keokuk CBC (SJD); only 30 remained there on 8 Jan (CE). There were six additional reports from January through early February, indicating that this species will

winter when conditions permit. Migrants began to return on 19 Feb with 3 in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 40 on 20 Feb at Lake Manawa (BKP/LJP), and 8 on 24 Feb at Saylorville Res. (KJ).

Greater Scaup: All: 2 on 4 Dec at Spirit L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS), 4 on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE), 2 on 13 Dec near Iowa City (MCD-details), 11 on 20 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD), 2 on 25 Dec at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (MCD-details), 5 on 9 Jan at Heron Bend in Lee Co. (THK-details), and 2 on 25 Feb at the Radcliffe sewage lagoon in Hardin Co. (MPr).

Lesser Scaup: Scattered birds remained in the state through 16 Jan, the most northerly being 1 on 6 Jan at Mason City (RGo). Migrants began appearing in the state on 20 Feb with 8 at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP); the peak was 1,000 on 29 Feb at Coralville Res. (THK). Much farther to the north were 50 on 29 Feb at Port Neal (BFH).

Surf Scoter: A single female or immature reported from both Spirit L. and West Okoboji from 7–20 Dec was presumably the same bird (ETH, LAS).

White-winged Scoter: No reports.

Black Scoter: Remarkable was up to 14 birds from 6–12 Dec at Spirit L. (LAS, ETH). The only other report was of 1 on 18 Dec at the Red Rock Res. CBC (SJD, Maridel Jackson). Black is the rarest of Iowa's Scoters.

Oldsquaw: All: 1 on 17 Dec at Hallett's Quarry in Ames, (JJD), 1 on 18 Dec at the Red Rock CBC (AB), 2 on 20 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD, AB), 1 on 26 Dec–2 Feb on the Raccoon R. near Walnut Woods S.P. in Des Moines (SJD, AMJ, DHe, JLF), and 2 on 6 Feb at the MidAmerican Energy ponds (BKP/LJP).

Bufflehead: The peak count was 450 on 4 Dec at Saylorville Res.; only 15 remained the following day (DT). The only midwinter report was 1 on 9 Jan on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (THK). Very small numbers of migrants began trickling in on 26–28 Feb, with reports from Clarke, Appanoose, and Johnson counties.

Common Goldeneye: The first were 30 on 11 Dec at Port Neal (BFH). Very small numbers were reported around the state from January through 6 Feb when 300 were on the Mississippi R. in Scott Co. (CE), and 100 were at the MidAmerican Energy ponds (BKP/LJP). The other high count was 120 on 12 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE); 40 stayed until the end of the period at Port Neal (BFH). It was not a big year for this species, which often forms large flocks on Iowa's reservoirs and rivers.

Hooded Merganser: A remarkable concentration at Saylorville peaked at 600 on 4 Dec (DT, JJD) before dwindling to 36 on 12 Dec (BE). Other concentrations were 79 on 18 Dec at the Red Rock Res. CBC (SJD), 16 on 19 Dec at L. MacBride in Johnson Co. (THK), and 23 on 24 Dec at Cedar L. which dwindled to 12 by 20 Feb. (MCD, JLF, CE). The remaining reports, from throughout the season and primarily from the southern half of the state, were all single digit until 25 appeared on 28 Feb at Otter Creek M. in Tama (MPr).

Common Merganser: The largest counts include 7,600 on 18 Dec at the Red Rock CBC (SJD), 1,000 on 8 Jan at Heron Bend (CE, THK), 261 on 12 Jan at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 1,215 on 21 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 150 at L. Manawa on 23 Feb. (BKP/LJP). In Port Neal, 6 stayed to the end of the period (BFH).

Red-breasted Merganser: All: 1 on 13 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 1 on 27 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD), 2 on 19 Feb in Monona Co. (PE), 16 on 26 Feb at Lost Island L. (LAS), and 2 on 26 Feb at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (MCD).

Ruddy Duck: The 1,832 at the Keokuk CBC on 20 Dec (SJD) eliminates all previous high CBC counts. The five reports following that date were of one or two birds and were from throughout the season and the state.

- Bald Eagle:** The greatest numbers were 112 on 18 Jan at Amana L. pulling dead fish from the ice (Bob Stearns fide THK) and 160 on 26 Feb at Red Rock Res. (PBy). Numbers seemed lower than usual, perhaps because the mild winter failed to concentrate them at the usual open water locations.
- Northern Harrier:** There were 21 reports of 42 birds throughout the season and the state. The highest counts were 4 on 4 Dec at Neal Smith N.W.R. in Jasper Co. (CE), and 9 on 19 Jan in Wayne Co. (AB).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** There were 12 reports from around the state, many wintering around feeders.
- Cooper's Hawk:** As expected, there were fewer reports than for Sharp-shinned, with about 8. Unlike Sharp-shinned, many of the reports were from northern Iowa counties: Cerro Gordo, Hardin, Black Hawk, and Sioux.
- Northern Goshawk:** All: 1 imm. on 30 Dec at Fairmount Cemetery at Davenport (JLF), and 1 imm. on 16 Jan and 13 Feb at Gull Point S.P. in Dickinson Co. (LAS).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 1 on 8 Jan and 2 on 3 Feb at George Wyth S.P. in Black Hawk Co. (MPR, JLF), 1 on 29 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC-details), and 1 on 23 Feb at Ahquabi S.P. in Warren Co. (JSi). At least three were adults.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** Harlan's were reported on 1 Jan at the Boone Co. CBC (*KJ), and on 30 Jan 21 Feb in Warren Co. (AMJ-details). A western dark morph was at Sioux City on 14 Jan (JJo), and rufous morphs were found on 18 Dec at the Red Rock CBC (SJD) and on 26 Feb in Warren Co. (JSi). Pair bonding was noted on 25 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ).
- Ferruginous Hawk:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** There were about 24 reports of 34 birds throughout the period and throughout the state. The peak counts were 3 together on 13 Jan in Tama Co. (MPR), and 7 on 29 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).
- Golden Eagle:** All: 1 imm. on 5 Feb at the Hannibal Waterman A. in O'Brien Co. (LAS), 1 on 19 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and an ad. and an imm. on 24 Feb at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. in Van Buren Co. (DKi).
- American Kestrel:** There were two reports from northern Iowa: 1 on 11 Dec at New L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 1 from 11 Jan through the period at Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF).
- Merlin:** All: 2 on 18 Dec in Sioux City (BFH), 1 on 20 Dec in Sioux County (JV), 1 *richardsonii* on 21 Dec in Story Co. (Wolf Oesterreich fide SJD), 1 window-killed imm. *richardsonii* on 22 Dec in Boone Co. (Todd Borgenschutz fide SJD), 1 *richardsonii* on 23 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 1 *richardsonii* on 24 Dec in Union Co. (SJD), 1 on 26 Dec-1 Jan in Polk Co. (BE), 1 on 4 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe), 1 on 14 Jan at Sioux City (BFH), and 1 on 3-6 Feb in Emmet Co. (DHe).
- Peregrine Falcon:** The only report was of 1 on 29 Feb at Saylorville Res. (PHA/RIA).
- Prairie Falcon:** None reported.
- Gray Partridge:** From 1-4 birds were reported in Marshall, Guthrie, Dickinson Cos. I don't know if this bird is not consistently reported or if it is continuing its decline.
- Ruffed Grouse:** The only report was of 7 in Clark Co. in south-central Iowa (JSi), the result of re-introduction efforts.
- Wild Turkey:** Worth Co. in far northern Iowa had 38 on 16 Jan (RGo).
- American Coot:** Several birds stuck it out through the mild midwinter, such as up to 4 on 22 Dec 24 Feb at Cedar L. (MCD, JLF) 2 on 5 Jan at Rock Valley in Sioux Co. (Marty Eby fide JJD), 1 on 8 Jan at Cedar Falls (MPR), 1 on 12 Jan in Cass Co. (THK), 1 on 18 Jan in Davenport (JLF), and 1 on 31 Jan at Ottumwa (AB). Returning were 35 on 24 Feb at Saylorville Res (KJ).
- Sandhill Crane:** Birds appeared for a third consecutive winter season. Remarkable were 21 on 16 Dec at Otter Creek M. in

Tama Co. (MPR). Another was at Cedar Rapids on 22 Dec (MCD).

Killdeer: In contrast to last winter season, this year had several January/early February reports, including 2 on 1 Jan at Cone M. (THK), 2 on 4 Jan at Decorah in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), 5 on 9 Jan at Heron Bend (THK), 1 on 16 Jan at Middle Decatur Bend in Monona Co. (PE), 2 on 18 Jan in Muscatine Co. (JLF, THK), and 1 on 7 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ). There were eight additional reports from 22 Feb through the period.

Common Snipe: The top count was 8 on 4 Dec in Warren Co., dwindling to 3 on 13 Dec. (JSI); also, 3 on 8 Dec at Rock Creek S.P. (MPR). The only January/early February reports were 1 on 4 Jan at Decorah (DeC) and 1 on 5 Feb through the period in Jefferson Co. (DKi).

American Woodcock: The first were 3 displaying on 24 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Franklin's Gull: An alternate plumage adult was at Heron Bend on 8 Jan (JLF, THK).

Bonaparte's Gull: There were 9 on 11 Dec at Saylorville Res. (JJD). Four other birds were reported from CBCs.

Ring-billed Gull: The Red Rock CBC on 18 Dec produced 12,000 (SJD). A single bird had returned to Don Williams L. in Boone Co. in central Iowa on 26 Feb (KJ), and another to Woodbury Co. in northwest Iowa on 29 Feb. (BFH).

Herring Gull: There were the usual reports.

Thayer's Gull: All: 1 2nd basic bird on 17–19 Dec at the Rathbun Res. CBC (*RLC), 1 ad. and 1 1st basic on 18 Dec 21 Jan at the Red Rock Res. (SJD, AB), 1 ad. on 19 Dec at Saylorville Res (SJD, JJD), 1 ad. on 26 Dec at the Des Moines CBC (SJD), 1 ad. on 18 Jan at Scott Co. (JLF, THK), and 1 1st basic on 4 Feb. in Scott Co. (JLF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: One lingered from the fall season to 11 Dec at a landfill in Dickinson Co. (LAS) and

a 1st basic bird was at Jester Park on Saylorville Res. on 6 Dec (*AB).

Glaucous Gull: All: 1 1st basic on 3 Jan at Red Rock Res. (AB), 1 ad. on 21 Jan at Red Rock Res. (AB), 1 on 4 Feb on the Mississippi River in Scott Co. (JLF), and 1 ad. on 23–27 Feb at Saylorville Res. (DT).

Great Black-backed Gull: The only report was of 1 ad. on 4 Feb at Scott Co. (JLF).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Up to 3 were at their usual location in Grinnell through the season (MPR, JLF). Up to 6 were in Rutland in Humboldt Co. from 31 Dec through the period (*John Smeltzer photo, DHe), and 1 was in Ames on 4 Feb (*JJD), both new locations. This species is rapidly advancing towards us from the southeastern U.S.

Mourning Dove: The most was 75 on 15 Jan in Polk Co. (MPR).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Nesting boxes were used by wintering birds in Cerro Gordo (PHe) and Dickinson (ETh) counties. Two others were in Boone Co. (KJ).

Great Horned Owl: A bird of the pale Arctic race was at Mason City through the period (CJF).

Snowy Owl: All: 1 injured bird near Titonka on 6 Dec in Kossuth Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD), 1 on 10 Dec until killed by a vehicle about a week later near Fairfield in Jefferson Co. in southern Iowa (RIC, DPo, PHA/RIA, JLF), and 1 on 23 Dec near Ames (Pat Schlarbaum fide JJD).

Barred Owl: There were three midwinter reports from northern Iowa counties: Cerro Gordo (RGo), Humboldt (DHe), and Palo Alto (LAS).

Long-eared Owl: A few were reported after the CBC period: 6 on 9 Jan in Guthrie Co. (RLC), and 2 on 15–23 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe, RGo). Rita Goranson noted that the Cerro Gordo Co. birds



Cape May Warbler (second winter record) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, December 2000. Photo by Jim Durban.

were being seen from Owl Avenue near Mason City.

Short-eared Owl: The only counts of more than 1 bird were 21 on 24 Dec declining to 9 in 19 Jan in Wayne Co. (AB), and 4 on 29 Jan in Warren Co. (AMJ). The most northerly was in Cerro Gordo Co. (m.obs.)

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 1 on 21 Dec 30 Jan at Ledges S.P. in Boone Co. (KJ, PHA/RIA, AMJ), 1 on 29 Dec in Boone Co. (SJD), 1 on 1 Jan in Marshall Co. (MPR), 1 on 2 Jan at Hooper W.A. in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 from 2 Jan 2 Feb at Kent P. in Johnson Co. (CE, JLF), and 1 on 1 Jan–2 Feb at Grammar Grove A. in Marshall Co. (MPR).

Belted Kingfisher: Birds in Worth, Warren, and Winneshiek counties were the only reports after the CBC period.

Red-headed Woodpecker: All: 1 on 2 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. in northern Iowa (RGo).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: All: 1 on 3 Dec at Mason City (JLW).

Northern Flicker: Red-shafted forms were found on 22 Jan in Story Co. (Bill Clark fide JJD), and 23–27 Jan in Mason City (CJF).

Pileated Woodpecker: There were reports from Des Moines, Lucas, and Delaware counties.

Eastern Phoebe: No reports.

Loggerhead Shrike: The most northerly

report was 1 Jan in Hardin Co. (MPR—details). Five other reports came from the southern half of the state. Details or documentations are appropriate for winter reports from the northern 2/3 of the state.

Northern Shrike: There are about 25 reports from around the state and throughout the season. The most southerly were 1 or 2 birds in Appanoose Co. on 15 Jan and 12 Feb (PHA/RIA, RLC), and 1 on 16 Jan in Clarke Co. (JSi). Numbers this year were similar to those of last year's invasion.

Black-billed Magpie: There were 2 on 11 Dec at Broken Kettle Grassland near Westfield in Plymouth Co. and 1 there in late January (Scott Moats—details fide JJD).

American Crow: The roost at Ames hosted about 12,000 birds (JJD).

Horned Lark: Probably moving north were 5 on 22 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 129 on 23 Jan in Benton Co. (MCD), and 200 on 5 Feb in Jefferson Co. (DKi).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 15 reports of from 1–2 birds throughout the season and throughout the state. The top count was 4 on 9 Feb at Big M. in Butler Co. (MPR). Most reporters noted that the birds remained at their feeders throughout the season.

Brown Creeper: There were the usual scattered records including high counts of 6 on 2 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 7 on 11 Feb at Backbone S.P. in Delaware Co. (PE).

Carolina Wren: The peak count was 8 on 20 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD). Of the eight other reports, half were away from the southeastern quadrant of Iowa, but only barely so: 1 on 16 Dec in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 on 22 Jan in Story Co. (Steve Maloy fide JJD), 1 on 22 Jan in Polk Co. (DT), and 1 on 25–28 Feb in Marshall Co. (MPR).

Winter Wren: All: 1 at Ledges S.P. throughout the season (KJ), 1 on 16 Dec at Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 on 17 Dec–14 Jan

in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 1 on 18 Dec at Burlington (JLF).

Marsh Wren: The Shenandoah CBC produced Iowa's seventh winter report with 1 on 18 Dec at Riverton W.A. (*Ross Silcock).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Reports of more than 1 or 2 birds include 5 on 16 Dec at Saylorville Res. (KJ), 3 on 18 Dec in Burlington (JLF), 3 on 29 Dec at L. MacBride (JLF), and 3 on 17 Jan at Ledges S.P. (KJ).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The only report was 1 on 19 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (Mike Overton-details).

Eastern Bluebird: There were scattered reports through the CBC period, then none until 29 Jan when 12 were in Appanoose Co. (RLC) and 2 were in Lucas Co. (JSi); another was in Boone Co. on 30 Jan (KJ). Peak February counts included 6 on 19 Feb in Monona Co. (PE), 12 on 25 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ), and 6 on 26 Feb in Polk Co. (BE).

Hermit Thrush: All: 1 on 8 Dec at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 1 on 18 Dec at the Red Rock Res CBC (SJD), 1 on 22 Jan 1 Feb at Hawkeye W.A. (JLF), and 1 on 22 Jan at Hitchcock W.A. (MOr fide SJD).

American Robin: High counts among the few reports include 17 on 23 Jan in Polk Co. (BE) and 20 on 26 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ).

Varied Thrush: All: 1 male on 8–23 Jan at Waterloo (MD, MPr, JLF), 1 male on 20–29 Jan at Rock Falls in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW, CJF, RGo), and 1 fem. on 24 Jan 21 Feb in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), the latter bird feeding on millet seed. For historical perspective, there were no reports in the 1998–1999 season, about 6 in 1997–1998, and 2 in 1996–1997.

Gray Catbird: All: 1 on 5 Dec at Marble Beach A. in Dickinson Co. (ETH).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 1 on 18 Jan near Kilpeck's Landing in Lousia Co. (THK, JLF)

Brown Thrasher: All: 1 on 1 Jan at Grammar Grove A. (MPr).



Pine Warbler (third winter record) in Des Moines, Iowa December 2000. Photo by David Spreadbury.

American Pipit: Late was 1 on 12 Dec in Polk Co. (BE).

Cedar Waxwing: Bigger numbers appeared after the CBC period, such as 114 on 20 Jan in Johnson Co. (MCD), 150 on 26 Feb in Boone Co. (KJ), and 80 on 28 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

Orange-crowned Warbler: A remarkable winter record was 1 on 29 Feb in the yard of Jim Ellison of Lisbon, Linn Co. (*THK). This bird presumably wintered in the area; it is a late departing warbler that winters in the southern U.S.

Cape May Warbler: Iowa's second winter record was an adult male on 22 Dec 23 Jan at the home of Joyce Miller in Cedar Rapids (*MCD, *THK-photos). The state's first winter record was in December 1997.

Pine Warbler: Iowa's third winter record of this species was at the home of David Spreadbury in Des Moines from 16 Dec–1 Jan (*David Spreadbury-photo).

Common Yellowthroat: The Burlington CBC produced 1 fem. on 17 Dec (JLF-details).

Spotted Towhee: A male was in the Des Moines yard of Phil Walsh from 29 Jan to 5 Feb (AMJ, MPr).

Eastern Towhee: CBCs produced the only reports: 1 on 18 Dec at Cedar Rapids (Ruth Balster-details) and 1 on 19 Dec at Iowa City (CE-details).

- Chipping Sparrow:** There was 1 at the Des Moines feeder of David Spreadbury on 23 Jan (RIA-photo, PHA).
- Field Sparrow:** All reports were from CBCs: 1 on 19 Dec at Saylorville (RIC details), 1 on 22 Dec at Oakville in Louisa Co. (Kelly McKay-details), and 1 on 27 Dec at Decorah (Darwin Koenig-details).
- Vesper Sparrow:** The Iowa City CBC on 19 Dec produced the only report (*CE).
- Savannah Sparrow:** There was 1 report after the CBC period; 1 on 22 Jan at Cedar Rapids (JLF). There were 2 CBC reports: 1 on 17 Dec at Burlington (JLF details) and 1 on 19 Dec near Saylorville Res. (*SJD, Russ Reisz).
- Fox Sparrow:** All: 1 on 17 Dec 6 Feb at Hawkeye W.A. (MCD, JLF), 1 on 24 Dec in Union Co. (SJD), 1 on 25 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 1 on 26 Feb in Warren Co. (JSi), and 1 on 27 Feb in Marion Co. (JSi). The two late February birds were probably returning.
- Song Sparrow:** Northern Iowa reports after the CBC period include up to 2 on 11 Jan–15 Feb at Mason City (CJF) and 6 on 5 Feb at Dubuque (PE).
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** All: 1 on 19 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (SJD-details, JJD).
- Swamp Sparrow:** There were four reports of from 1–4 birds from throughout the season, all in the southern half of the state.
- White-throated Sparrow:** Reports of more than 1 or 2 birds include 4 wintering in Ames (JJD), 4 on 20 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), and 12 on 19 Feb at Hooper W.A. (JSi). The most northerly report was of 2 on 25 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).
- Harris's Sparrow:** Peak counts include up to 8 on 18 Dec–25 Jan at two Cerro Gordo Co. locations (RGo, CJF, PHe), up to 9 throughout the period in Polk Co. (BE), and 13 on 22 Feb in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** The peak count was 6 wintering in Polk Co. (BE). There were a handful of other reports from throughout the season in southern Iowa; the only northern Iowa report was of a "western" race bird from 13–20 Feb at Decorah (LeRoy Anderson fide DeC).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** "Oregon" race birds were 1 on 16 Dec in Sioux Co. (JV) and 1 on 23 Dec in Story Co. (SJD).
- Lapland Longspur:** High counts include 80 on 18 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe), 1,200 on 19 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (AMJ), 140 on 21 Dec at Guthrie Co. (RLC), 50 on 5 Jan in Scott Co. (THK), 1,000 on 29 Jan in Dubuque Co. (JLF), and 150 on 19 Feb in Dickinson Co. (ETH).
- Snow Bunting:** The first were 3 on 4 Dec in Hardin Co. (MPr) and the peak count was 1,000 on 29 Jan in Dubuque Co. (JLF); other high counts were 100 on 31 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETH) and 100 on 16 Jan in Palo Alto Co. (DHe). The only report from the southern three tiers of counties was 60 wintering at Rathbun Res., of which 12 remained until 19 Feb (RLC).
- Red-winged Blackbird:** A single bird stuck it out in Mason City until 1 Jan (JLW); three other midwinter reports were from southern Iowa. Presumably migrants were 150 on 6 Feb in Boone Co. (JJD) and 65 on 10 Feb in Warren Co. (DT). Migrants made it to Sioux Co. in northwestern Iowa on 24 Feb (JV).
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Returning birds were identified by voice: 4 on 19 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 12 on 19 Feb in Polk Co. (BE), and 1 on 23 Feb at Saylorville Res. (DT).
- Meadowlark sp.:** There were 10 birds on 8 Jan in Washington Co. (DKi).
- Rusty Blackbird:** A female was in Mason City from 23 Dec–27 Feb and a male was there from 11–20 Feb (JLW). Other reports include 2 on 2 Dec at Cardinal M. in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), 1 on 2 Jan in Hardin Co. (MPr-details), 200 on 26 Feb in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), and 10 on 27 Feb in Worth Co. (RGo); the latter two reports were of migrants.

Brewer's Blackbird: There were two reports of this difficult-to-identify species: 22 on 18 Dec at the Cedar Rapids CBC (Kelly McKay-details), and 2 on 27 Feb at Silver L. in Worth Co. (*RGo).

Common Grackle: There were 900 on 20 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD) and 110 on 8 Jan in Dallas Co. (JJD). Migrants were noted beginning on 19 Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: Midwinter reports include 25 on 10 Jan in Tama Co. (MPr), 1 on 20 Jan at Rock Falls in Cerro Gordo Co. (CJF, JLW), and 20 on 24 Jan at the Elks golf course in Iowa City (THK). Migrants were noted by the last week of the month.

Baltimore Oriole: A fem. or imm. was at Everly in Clay Co. from 26 Nov–21 Dec. (LAS-details)

Bullock's Oriole: A male was at Elk Horn in Shelby Co. from early Nov through the period (*THK-photos, *JLF, MPr-details, AMJ). This is the first winter record of this species (split from Baltimore Oriole in 1995) and the third overall.

Purple Finch: Since I requested more consistent reporting of this species last season, I am including all reports: up to 7 through the period in Mason City (CJF), "regular visitors" through the period in Sioux Co. (JV), 30 on 5 Dec at Hitchcock W.A. (MOr), 12 on 6 Dec increasing to 71 by the end of the period in Boone Co. (KJ), 36 on 18 Dec in Cerro Gordo Co. (PHe), 51 on 24 Dec in Union Co. (SJD), 1 on 29 Dec in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 4 on 31 Dec in Webster Co. (MPr), 4 on 1 Jan in Marshall Co. (MPr), 9 on 4 Jan in Johnson Co. (MCD), 1 on 8 Jan in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 2 on 14–16 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), 1 on 15 Jan in Dickinson Co. (ETH), and 2 on 5 Feb in Polk Co. (MPr). While better reporting may have contributed to my perception, I think this was a much better year for this species.



Bullock's Oriole (first winter record and third overall) near Elk Horn, Shelby County, Iowa, 18 December 1999. Photo by T. H. Kent.

House Finch: Ed Thelen counted up 73 on 24 Dec at Spirit Lake.

Red Crossbill: No reports.

White-winged Crossbill: All: 3 on 16 Dec in Sioux Co. (JV), 1 on 21 Dec at Panora on the Jamaica CBC (*RLC), 1 on 27 Dec–1 Feb at Spirit Lake (ETH), and 15 on 30 Dec at Fairmount Cemetery in Davenport (JLF).

Common Redpoll: By far the best count was 20 on 7 Dec at Spring Run A. in Dickinson Co. (ETH). Others were 2 on 1–14 Feb in Sioux Center (JV), 2 on 5 Feb at Spirit Lake (ETH), 1 on 16 Feb at Decorah (Susan Anderson fide DeC), and 4 on 23 Feb at Marshalltown (MPr).

Pine Siskin: Marietta Peterson took the prize with 22 on 4 Dec at her feeder in Walnut in Cass Co. There were 10 other reports of 1–10 birds from throughout the season and throughout the state.

American Goldfinch: Numbers at a Boone feeder peaked at 50 on 22 Jan (KJ).

Evening Grosbeak: None reported.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Small numbers were reported from Muscatine Co., Des Moines Co., and Cone M. in Louisa Co.

CONTRIBUTORS (* = documentation only)

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Aaron Brees (AB), Corydon; Paul Bystrak (PBy), Huxley; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ft. Collins, CO; Michael C. Dooley (MCD), Cedar Rapids; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Urbandale; Pete Ernzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Paul Hertzell (PHe), Mason City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Jack Jones (JJo), Sioux City; Karl Jungbluth (KJ), Boone; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Dave Killman (DKi), Mark Orsag (MOr), Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Marietta A. Peterson (MAP), Walnut; Diane Porter (DPo), Fairfield; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; *John Smeltzer, Ft. Collins, CO; *David Spreadbury, Des Moines; Ed Thelen, (ETh), Spirit Lake; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City.

COMMENT

First and foremost, a big thanks to Ann Johnson for compiling the great amount of information that comes in from contributors. Due to a scheduling blunder on my part, I was unable to do what is probably the biggest part of the seasonal report. Thanks also to all those who submitted reports, and to those who helped me review the draft. This year, everyone was on time, and many used e-mail. It would greatly reduce the compiler's workload to have some kind online data entry for those equipped to use it; hopefully we will have something in the not too distant future.

1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)

Contributors to Field Reports from 1961–1999*

Thomas H. Kent

As I indicated last year, the Fall 1999 Field Report was my last report. I have enjoyed this task and the people that I have worked with over the last 20 years. As a tribute to those who have made the field reports possible, I have compiled a list of those who have contributed reports or documentations since inception of the field reports section in *Iowa Bird Life* in 1961. In the table, I have listed the 122 of 656 contributors who reported 10 or more times, listed in order by their first year of contribution. The inclusive dates and number of reports (in parentheses) indicate that the contributors fall into three categories: long-term regular reporters, short-term regular reporters, and long-term irregular reporters. Of the remaining 534 contributors, 6 reported nine times, 10 eight times, 15 seven times, 19 six times, 21 five times, 24 four times, 44 three times, 84 two times, and 311 one time.



T. H. Kent

Brooke, Margaret	1961–82 (24)	Getscher, Ione E.	1962–88 (66)
Brown, Woodward H.	1961–80 (76)	Knight, Dick	1962–67 (14)
Gillespey, J. Donald	1961–94 (66)	Knoop, Pearl	1962–84 (48)
Hays, Russell	1961–78 (43)	Black, Gladys	1963–82 (64)
Keeler, Milford D.	1961–70 (10)	Bryant, Eldon	1963–96 (37)
Kent, Fred W.	1961–77 (51)	Hanna, Mrs. Darrell	1963–75 (39)
Leshner, Fred	1961–99 (39)	Keenan, Jim	1963–72 (30)
Peck, Mary E.	1961–74 (10)	Koenig, Darwin	1963–99 (76)
Petersen, Peter P.	1961–97 (144)	Layton, Keith D.	1963–75 (12)
Proescholdt, Beth	1961–99 (68)	Muilenburg, Ron	1963–76 (24)
Roosa, Dean	1961–82 (13)	Peasley, Helen	1963–75 (22)
Serbousek, Lillian	1961–78 (31)	Peterson, Don	1963–67 (16)
Warters, Mary Ellen	1961–75 (11)	Lowther, Peter	1964–98 (20)
Faaborg, John	1962–71 (25)	Rod, Jim	1964–72 (10)

Swenson, Myron	1964-69 (10)	Wilson, Barbara L.	1978-92 (47)
McKinley, Howard	1965-68 (13)	Myers, Robert K.	1979-96 (39)
Hewitt, Clarise	1966-72 (10)	Thornburg, Robert	1979-83 (12)
Crossley, George E.	1967-87 (10)	Hansen, James L.	1980-90 (16)
Johnson, Ann M.	1967-99 (43)	Harms, Ronald V.	1980-90 (22)
Braley, Jean B.	1969-97 (14)	Laubach, Rene	1980-83 (11)
DeLong, Genevieve	1969-80 (24)	Martsching, Paul	1980-97 (42)
Mooney, Dick	1969-83 (34)	Moore, Francis L.	1980-98 (39)
Phipps, Ruth	1969-84 (42)	Nelson, Curt	1980-99 (18)
Walters, Betty	1969-82 (15)	Robinson, John	1980-85 (13)
Scott, Charlotte	1970-94 (20)	Baldner, Russell P.	1981-88 (12)
Dorow, Herb	1971-77 (15)	Henrickson, Dennis	1981-99 (19)
Tiemann, Marie	1971-99 (18)	Sandrock, James	1981-87 (22)
Armstrong, Eugene	1972-99 (53)	Sinclair, James	1981-99 (58)
Halmi, Nicholas S.	1972-79 (29)	Brand, Gordon J.	1982-96 (21)
Mosman, Dean	1973-93 (54)	Dinsmore, Stephen J.	1982-99 (57)
DeCoster, Richard	1975-94 (15)	White, Harold W.	1982-96 (12)
Fuller, James	1975-99 (66)	Wickham, Pete	1982-91 (10)
Newlon, Mike	1975-84 (30)	Armstrong, Eloise	1983-99 (36)
Silcock, W. Ross	1975-99 (39)	Ehrsman, Bruce	1983-99 (17)
Staudt, Thomas	1975-99 (33)	Laub, Sharon	1983-97 (31)
Bierman, Dick	1976-98 (54)	Porter, Diane C.	1983-99 (46)
Brewer, Marion	1976-97 (47)	Proescholdt, Mark	1983-99 (63)
Dinsmore, James J.	1976-99 (88)	Thompson, Dennis	1983-99 (24)
Kent, Thomas H.	1976-99 (89)	White, Gerald D.	1983-99 (17)
Shires, Tom	1976-80 (16)	Cecil, Robert I.	1984-99 (53)
Van Dyk, John	1976-97 (66)	Engelbretsen, Bery	1984-99 (47)
Hollis, Richard J.	1977-97 (35)	Munson, Eric	1984-88 (14)
Schaufenbuel, Joe	1977-84 (26)	Blevins, Brian	1985-96 (10)
Zaletel, Hank	1977-99 (79)	Huser, Bill F.	1985-99 (44)
Zaletel, Linda	1977-84 (10)	Kubik, Nick A.	1985-88 (11)
Bendorf, Carl	1978-94 (36)	Stone, Dale	1985-96 (11)
Bray, Tanya	1978-94 (50)	Bernstein, Neil R.	1986-99 (14)
Cummins, Raymond	1978-99 (72)	Jones, Jack	1986-99 (16)
Fuller, Charles	1978-95 (14)	Rose, Douglas L.	1986-94 (17)
Harr, Douglas	1978-99 (63)	Thelen, Ed	1986-99 (23)
Johnson, Thomas N.	1978-99 (25)	Walter, Jan L.	1987-99 (34)
Padelford, Babs	1978-99 (65)	Allen, Pam	1988-99 (40)
Padelford, Loren	1978-99 (60)	Allen, Reid	1988-99 (41)
Schlemmer, Conrad	1978-86 (16)	Hartough, Mary Jo	1988-90 (10)

Kenne, Matthew C.	1988-99 (47)	Ernzen, Peter	1991-98 (25)
Petersen, Marietta	1988-99 (38)	Fischer, Carolyn J.	1991-99 (28)
Pinkston, D. Randall	1989-90 (20)	Goranson, Rita A.	1991-99 (31)
Carter, Dennis	1990-99 (38)	Schoenewe, Lee A.	1991-99 (35)
Clark, Jane R.	1990-98 (10)	Dorrance, Dan C.	1992-99 (12)
Alexander, Carol Ann	1991-93 (12)	Edwards, Chris	1993-99 (25)
Dankert, David L.	1991-99 (25)	Walsh, Philip J.	1995-99 (13)

211 Richards Street, Iowa city, IA 52246 (thkent@home.com)

* This report was inadvertently omitted from *Iowa Bird Life* 70(1):44.
(KN, Editor)

Greenland Subspecies Greater White-fronted Geese in Linn County

Mike Dooley

On 6 February 2000, I was birding artificially-heated Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids and caught sight of two apparent Greater White-fronted Geese on an ice shelf occupied by legions of Canada Geese. I maneuvered for a better angle on them and focused my scope at its high power, situated at a middling distance range. I was immediately struck by the exceedingly bright orange bills of these geese. From past browsing in field guides, I was aware that this field mark indicated the Greenland subspecies of Greater White-fronted. I had been fooled once before on this mark while looking at Greater White-fronteds, thinking I had Greenlands. But on

that occasion continued observation from different angles revealed the pinkish tones also running through the bills (most of us I am sure are familiar with this orange-like effect). Watching these two quiet, well-exposed Cedar Lake geese in good sunlight could convince me of nothing but a pure bright orange color to their bills, matching their legs.

Still I was momentarily skeptical because the familiar white band around the base of the bills seemed thin to me. When their heads moved the band almost disappeared at certain angles. I was thinking maybe they might be some kind of domestic goose hybrid and hence nothing particularly noteworthy. But further inspection, also noting the blotchy barring on the undersides (and the birds' correct size relative to the Canadas), made it clear they were Greater White-fronteds. I consulted my NGS field guide, which adds that the Greenland subspecies is more heavily barred than the nominate race. I moved along the shore to get a better frontal view of the two geese and indeed they had markings that were more like large, ragged patches than "barring." One bird had such a patch not only on its midsection but also in the upper left quadrant of its underside.

I reported these birds over IA-BIRD and Ann Johnson forwarded the information to Malcolm Ogilvy, a Scottish ornithologist who is an expert on Greater White-fronted Geese. He confirmed the orange bills as diagnostic of the Greenland subspecies but felt that underside-barring was too variable between the species to be a reliable point. He did remark that Greenlands tend to have a thinner white band around their bills (I had not included that detail in my initial IA-BIRD posting, not realizing it could be significant).

The question presents itself as to their status, if these were indeed the Greenland subspecies. To this I would note that the earliest reported northbound White-fronteds in Iowa recently have been 8 February for 1998 and 6 February for 1999, both of which compare with the 6 February date in the present case. They were seen with Canada Geese, a species that has recently colonized the Greenland subspecies' breeding grounds according to Dr. Ogilvy. As Chris Edwards suggested to me, it perhaps is plausible that they migrated south and then north with the Canadas. Chris also offered that the likelihood of two captive birds simultaneously escaping and appearing at Cedar Lake seems low. Finally, these birds apparently were not

seen again after this sighting—no other reports were posted and the site is well-visited. It thus seems likely that they were in migration. (By contrast, one farm goose and two farm ducks were present at Cedar Lake all winter.)

1811 B Avenue, N.E., Cedar Rapids 52402-5464

Rehabilitating Bald Eagles: A Success Story

Erwin E. Klaas

In the spring of 1982, David Newhouse, nongame biologist for the Iowa Conservation Commission, called and asked me to provide bands for two Bald Eagles that had been rehabilitated from injuries and were being readied for release into the wild. Eagles require special lock-on bands that prevent birds from prying off aluminum bands with their strong beaks. Fortunately, the Iowa Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit had a small supply of eagle-size lock-on bands and I possessed the necessary banding permit.

The first eagle was banded (#629-03965) and released on 16 July 1982 at Hawkeye Wildlife Management Unit, 2 miles northwest of North Liberty in Johnson County. After the eagle was released it flew well and strong for over a half-mile before disappearing over a line of trees causing a commotion among crows, blackbirds, and pigeons in the area. It had been found injured near Kalona in Washington County earlier that spring (exact date unknown) and rehabilitated near Hubbard in Hardin County. Down feathers found among its plumage indicated that it was a young of the year. But, where had it come from? No active eagle nests were known to occur in central

Iowa at that time, and only one or two nests were known for the entire state. The wings and legs were measured and, because it was a relatively small eagle, Newhouse reported that it was probably of the southern race of the species that nests in Florida and other Gulf states. According to Palmer (1988), it is common for young Bald Eagles from the southern population to move northward 2 to 4 weeks after fledging. Bald Eagles from Florida have been reported as far north as Canada.

The second eagle was banded (#629-03696) and released at Big Creek Wildlife Management Area in Polk County on 14 October 1982. It had been found with an injured wing near Oskaloosa on 17 December 1981. An x-ray revealed that a small piece of the proximal end of the right humerus had broken off. The bone chip probably occurred when the eagle flew into an object such as an electric utility line. The bird was treated and rehabilitated at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine where it was kept in a large flight pen from January to October 1982. The injured wing was x-rayed in March and again in July to determine the rate of healing. This was a large bird and we assumed it came from a northern population, probably from northern Minnesota or southern Canada. It was at least two years old but the head and tail feathers were still dark. Bald Eagles normally get their white head and tail after four years when they become sexually mature. With television and still cameras recording the event, the released eagle flew 80 yards downwind, sailed back towards us to within 40 yards and then soared out over Big Creek Lake accompanied by a Red-tailed Hawk for about 20 minutes. It flew strongly, and the rehabilitation seemed successful.

As usually happens with banded nongame birds, the second bird was never seen or heard from again. But on 23 September 1994, 12 years after its release in Johnson County, eagle #629-03965 was found sick and emaciated along a road at Fort Benning, in west central Georgia. The site of recovery was within a mile or so of a nest that was active in 1993. The recovery confirmed that Newhouse had correctly identified it as being from the southern subspecies. The eagle was treated at Auburn University, Alabama and found to have a six-inch stick of wood embedded in a wing. Jim Ozier, a wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, reported the recovery of this eagle to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Banding Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland and I later corresponded with Jim by letter. He surmised that the injury was possibly the result of an

accidental self-impalement, probably during landing or in pursuit of prey. Another possibility was that a limb fell and hit the bird while it was roosting. The eagle appeared to have recovered by late October, so it was released near where it was found. Unfortunately, its decomposed carcass with the band still attached was found about a mile from the point of release on 12 December 1994. The actual cause of death could not be determined.

Although some people question the value of rehabilitating injured wild birds, the 12 years that one of these eagles survived and its probable nesting provides evidence that in some cases rehabilitation is worthwhile, particularly if it is a rare and endangered species.

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Department of Animal Ecology, Science Hall II, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

Yellow-billed Loon in Hamilton and Story Counties

Kevin Healy and Hank Zaletel

On 1 December 1999 at 3:00 P.M., Healy observed a juvenile Yellow-billed Loon on Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County, Iowa. He first noticed the bird while scanning the lake from the boat ramp at the south end. He obtained a better view by moving further east near the houses on the south end of the lake.



*Yellow-billed Loon on
Little Wall Lake,
Hamilton County, Iowa,
2 December 2000.
Photo by Reid I. Allen.*

He noted a large loon with a dirty brown head, small dark eye, and a dark spot posterior and inferior to the eye. The bird carried its head tilted upward. The head shape showed frontal bossing and was squared off posteriorly. The lower mandible was slightly convex with a straight upper mandible. The outer half of the culmen was a pale yellow.

Healy relayed his findings, with provisional identification, to local birders later that afternoon. By 8:30 P.M. the word was out on the Iowa RBA. Copious perspiration ensued; Healy had never seen this species before!

Work precluded Healy from visiting Little Wall Lake the next morning but by noon Mike Overton sent an e-mail confirming the identification. The Yellow-billed Loon stayed on Little Wall Lake and was seen by many birders until its departure on 12 December.

On the morning of 12 December, the bird kept a fifteen-foot area of water open from the encroaching ice. About noon on 12 December, Bill Scheibl of Cedar Rapids watched as the bird attained the momentum to take flight, then circled the lake eight times, and finally winged its way to points much farther south — or so we thought.

Hallett's Quarry is located 14 miles south of Little Wall Lake in northern Story County. The two water bodies that comprise the quarry are located on the northern city limits of Ames just west of U.S. Highway 69. During waterfowl migration, Zaletel religiously checks the ponds on a daily basis during his lunch hour.

At 12:15 P.M. on 13 December 1999, he spotted the Yellow-billed Loon on the north pond of the quarry. The bird was viewed at a distance of thirty yards. Having already seen the bird at Little Wall Lake and knowing that the bird had left Little Wall the previous day, he deduced that it was the same bird because its appearance and description matched that of Healy's.

The loon remained on the north pond for the following week. On Saturday, 18 December, the bird was observed on the Big Bluestem Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, a first. By Monday, 20 December, temperatures hovered in the high teens. Clouds of steam covered the water and the loon was seen for only a few seconds at a time. By the afternoon of that day, ice covered the

majority of the pond. The loon was last seen on the morning of 21 December.

Kevin Healy, 2427 Waterford Drive, Ames, IA 50010
(healy@ames.net)

Hank Zaletel, 1926 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201
(madowl@midiowa.net)

Book Review

Rails: A Guide to the Rails, Crakes, Gallinules and Coots of the World. Barry Taylor. Yale University Press, New Haven. 1998. 600 pp., 43 color plates, hardbound, \$49.95

James J. Dinsmore

This guide, yet another in the Helms series of bird family guides, covers 150 species of the family Rallidae. The format is similar to previous guides with 11 introductory sections describing general features of the book and rails. Species accounts comprise most of the book. For well-known species, these accounts cover identification, voice, description, measurements, geographical variation, molt, distribution and status, movements, habitat, foods and feeding, habits, social organization, social and sexual behavior, and breeding and survival. Not surprisingly, some topics are not covered for many of the less-known species. Detailed range maps are presented for all species. A thorough 45-page bibliography and an index complete the book. The plates illustrate 145 species and seem adequate for identification. However, the paintings are not as good as those in some other volumes in this series. For some species, an adult (both sexes if there is dimorphism) and a juvenile are shown, but for 65 species, just one bird is illustrated. The range maps and species accounts generally seem to be adequate and provide much informa-

tion for those who want facts about a particular species.

Most Iowa birders will probably find enough information about the eight rails known from Iowa in state bird books or field guides. So why would Iowans want to own this book? For those who are into globetrotting to find birds, this book provides a great introduction to some fascinating species that one might want to seek out. More compelling to me are the many questions this book raises about rail conservation. Few, if any, other groups of birds have so many species that are extinct (15 of 150), probably extinct (2 more), or threatened (33). The propensity for rails to wander, get stranded on oceanic islands, and eventually become flightless or nearly so has had much to do with most of these cases. One expert estimates that at least 1,000 additional species of island-dwelling rails have been extirpated directly or indirectly due to humans. For example, within the lifetime of most IOU members, the Guam Rail has been reduced from a fairly common species to one now extinct in the wild due to predation by the introduced Brown Tree Snake. Buried amidst the thousands of facts in this book are some great stories about a fascinating group of birds.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

The lead article in the June 1950 issue described the results of a study of Mourning Doves nesting near Ogden and Ames. The author of the article, Walter Rosene, Jr., is the son of one of the founders of the IOU and still is a member of the organization. As expected, most nests were in conifer trees and were located in loose aggregations, often with several nests in one tree. Another interesting article was by editor Fred Pierce who described his trip to southwestern Iowa in mid-March 1950 to see the Snow Goose migration. Two things stand out from his observations on that trip. First, he said that about three-fourths of the geese he saw were Blue Geese (which was considered a separate species at that time) and only one-fourth were Snow Geese. Currently, we would expect the proportions to be roughly reversed with white geese much more abundant than the blue form. Secondly, he estimated that he saw 100,000 to 500,000 geese that day. Presently, such numbers are not uncommon in western Iowa in fall but, in recent springs, far fewer birds are typically seen, as the main migration pathway seems to have moved westward into central Nebraska. Three short notes mentioned finding Evening Grosbeaks in spring 1950, suggesting it was an invasion year for that species. The most recent invasion in Iowa was in 1985.

4024 Arkansas Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

2 April 2000

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors met in Marshalltown on 2 April 2000. Board members in attendance included Mark Proescholdt (presiding), Jim Scheib, Phil Walsh, Curt Nelson, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson, and Jane Clark (secretary). Also in attendance were Hank and Linda Zaletel.

Hank Zaletel discussed the schedule for the newsletter and the spring meeting.

Linda Zaletel discussed the education booklets, which were completed with REAP grants. There are stipends for 41 teachers remaining. Any profits will go toward a neotropical migrant organization in Central America. The "Song of Spring" package was reviewed by the Iowa Conservation Education Council with good results. Linda recommended spending \$195 for an exhibit space for the Iowa Academy of Science Conference for October 26, 2000. A motion was made by Goranson/Jackson to designate \$195 for a booth at the Conference and \$125 for a 45-minute opportunity for presentation. Scheib asked where in the budget this request would come from. It was decided to create an Education line in the budget. Motion passed.

Proescholdt congratulated Hank and Linda Zaletel on receiving the Story County Conservationist of the Year Award.

Proescholdt reported that Paul Zeph of Iowa Audubon plans to have a meeting about Partners in Flight at the IOU meeting on Saturday from 10 to 12 A.M.

Proescholdt reported that Kay Niyo has her first issue of Iowa Bird Life almost completed. Dave Edwards of Ames has agreed to do the mailings. Niyo is thinking of redesigning IBL and is considering a different printer. There was discussion of a possible increase of 30% in printing costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historical Committee: Hank discussed what should be done with special collections such as those of Walter Rosene, first president of IOU. Also available are materials from 1896 to 1920 from Carl Fritz Henning in Boone County, who wrote every day about bird sightings. Jim Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel are working on *Birds of Boone County* and will find this information helpful.

Membership Committee: Jackson said Rita Goranson, Carol Berrier, and Barb Bettis will stay on, and proposed Galin Berrier as a new member. It was moved and seconded by Jackson/Walsh and passed. Curt Nelson said he and Paul Hertzell are working on a new brochure. Scheib also has a letter available for mailing to prospective members.

Publications Committee: Ann Barker's term is completed. Other members on the committee are Harold White (Chair), Dan Dorrance, Ron Muilenberg, and Jim Durbin. Proescholdt pointed out that the IOU Constitution establishes committees including publication, membership, and library. Other committees are at the discretion of the president.

Technology Committee: Johnson had discussed putting the field reports online. Scheib suggested we should be thinking of having our own server and software. He reported that few of the reported observations are on the Iowa Birdline and a discussion took place about the purpose of the Birdline and if it should be used only for rare bird alerts.

Nominating Committee: Mary Kuhlman's report was presented. Dan Dorrance has finished his two terms. Proposed slate: Jane Clark, secretary; Rita Goranson, treasurer; Jim Scheib, board; Judy Garton, board.

OLD BUSINESS

Kellerton Bird Conservation Area: A motion was approved at the fall IOU meeting to recommend the board make a donation to Kellerton Bird Conservation Area. Because IOU did not act on conservation projects last year, there is some money available. Scheib suggested that we could put \$3,000 (2 year's worth of allocations) toward the project. Jackson suggested we should address the Iowa

Conservationist article regarding birders' contributions to this project and find out from Mel Moe of the DNR what the current status of the project is. Goranson/Scheib moved to set aside \$3,000 representing 1999 and 2000 allocations for KBCA. Phil Walsh will check with Mel Moe on specific needs and determine if this donation can be targeted toward a specific area. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Spring Meeting 2000: The spring meeting will be held 19 to 21 May 2000 at Camp Ewalu, west of Strawberry Point in Clayton County. Programs will include Jim Dinsmore, "Birds of Restored Wetlands of Iowa"; Bruce Ehresman, "Birds of Prey of Iowa"; Larry Stone, "Iowa Portrait of the Land"; and Ann Barker for the evening program.

Fall Meeting 2000: Goranson suggested checking with Lee Schoenewe or Matt Kenne about a location for the fall meeting, keeping in mind the Iowa Audubon meeting, which will be held September 15 to 17.

Spring 2001: Bob Cecil has proposed a meeting at Keosauqua. Motion and second by Clark/Jackson passed.

IOU Field Trips: The Board discussed possibilities of IOU sponsoring and subsidizing trips as raised by Dick Tetrault at the fall 1999 IOU meeting. Jim Scheib suggested we should have a schedule of field trips to help build camaraderie and membership. He suggested that a committee be appointed at the May meeting. There were questions about charging for trips, liability, etc. Jackson will collect information through the Minnesota field trips.

Membership and Dues Structure: Nelson brought up the idea of student memberships and suggested a \$12 membership for 18 and under on a trial basis for a few years. Motion and second by Nelson/Walsh passed.

Rare Bird Hosts: Bob Cecil nominated David Spreadbury for his Pine Warbler. Ann Johnson nominated Randy and Rhea Leete for their Bullock's Oriole. Rita Goranson nominated John Hlavacek and Joyce Miller for their Cape May Warbler. Motion and second by Jackson/Walsh passed.

Treasurer's Report: Goranson presented the treasurer's report. Budget was discussed. Motion and second by Nelson/Jackson to accept the budget passed.

Treasurer's Report — 1999

Rita Goranson, Treasurer

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

SUPPORT (Contributions and Gifts)

Breeding Bird Atlas		
Adopt-A-Book Fund	\$56.00	
Iowa Bird Line	70.00	
Unspecified Contributions	105.00	
Ottumwa Fall Meeting Excess	150.00	
Total Contributions and Gifts		\$381.00

REVENUES (Members, Actual Deposits for 1999 Year)

Memberships/Subscriptions

Regular Member	2,835.00	
First Family Member	152.00	
Second Family Member	16.00	
Life Member	125.00	
Institutional Subscribers	420.00	
Total Membership Revenue		3,548.00

Sales

IOU Materials	622.70	
Education Books	93.00	
Total Sales Revenue		715.70

Interest Income

Checking Account	43.22	
Total Interest Income		43.22

Refunds

Refund on Insurance	7.17	
Total Refund Income		7.17

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$4,695.09
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EXPENSES

Publications Committee

Iowa Bird Life	4,193.10	
IOU	1,475.33	
Total Publications Committee		5,668.43

President

Registrar	113.50
Iowa Bird Line	251.26
Iowa Neotropic Trunk Project	1,500.00

IOU Materials

Hats and Shirts	630.86
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IOU Internet Site

Total other Organization Expenses	269.39
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8,826.13
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EXCESS EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUES

\$4,131.04

1999*

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1999

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in Bank (Note 1)	\$7,180.62	
Cash in Bank (Note 2)	106.86	
Certif. of Deposit #1	26,450.84	
Certif. of Deposit #2	2,629.01	
Certif. of Deposit #3	2,639.86	
Certif. of Deposit #4	2,698.15	
Total Current Assets, 31 Dec. 1999		\$41,705.34

FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

Birdathon	1,512.05	
Book Royalties	2,865.34	
Endowment Fund	4,941.39	
Project Fund	390.71	
Total Endowment Fund		\$9,709.49
Life Memberships	9,802.50	
Birdline Fund	438.18	
Meeting Reimbursement Fund	780.29	
Adopt-A-Book Fund	2,302.00	
Total of Specific Funds		13,322.97
General Operating Funds		18,672.88

Total Fund Balance, 31 December 1999 \$41,705.34

Renewal notices were not sent out until January 2000 due to Y2K concerns. With renewals in, the revenues will be greater than the expenses for FY1999.

Letter to the Editor

Thomas H. Kent

I want to salute Jim Dinsmore for his 10 years of editorship of Iowa Bird Life from 1990 to 1999. Although 10 years may seem like a short time compared to Fred Pierce's 30 years and Pete Petersen's 25 years, it is a long time compared to my 4 years at the job. Times have changed. The computer has added to the burden of the job by making it possible for the

editor to do all of the work in preparing the journal for printing. I know well how much work was involved in just the process of mailing 40 issues.

Although the sheer effort of putting the journal together and mailing it was considerable, Jim's greatest contribution was getting the content for the journal. In contrast to major scientific journals, *Iowa Bird Life* does not generate an abundance of submissions for publication. As editor, Jim went out looking for content and helped many authors generate it. His knowledge of the science of ornithology, the "amateur" birders of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and the naturalists working for the state and federal governments helped in presenting a balance of material in the journal.

Jim came to Iowa from Minnesota to do his undergraduate work at Iowa State University (1960–1964). He received advanced degrees from the University of Wisconsin and University of Florida and taught at the University of Tampa before returning to Iowa State as a professor in the Department of Animal Ecology in 1975. From that time until now (and hopefully for a long time into the future), Jim has been a major contributor to Iowa birding. He always contributes field reports, including many sightings reported to him by former students, and has edited the summer reports since 1984. He has served on numerous committees of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and was president for two terms beginning in 1987. During his span of 25 years of birding activity in Iowa, Jim has coauthored two major books on Iowa birds, produced many notes and articles for *Iowa Bird Life*, and guided many graduate students in their ornithological research. Many students remember his ornithology classes.

In spite of all his hard work and accomplishments, I will remember Jim most for his congenial manner and friendliness to all. I have never detected any touch of academic arrogance, and I have had the pleasure of working with Jim on many projects.

Jim, we thank you for your great effort as editor of *Iowa Bird Life* and many other contributions to Iowa birding.



J. J. Dinsmore

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246 (thkent@home.com)



MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member (without publications) (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the IOU); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members also will receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Curt Nelson or Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401 (Mpauley@jumpgate.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue, 15 February for the Spring issue, 15 May for the Summer issue, and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. Manuscripts may be submitted on computer disk (preferably Microsoft Word or WordPerfect for PCs) or sent as an e-mail attachment to the editor. Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript if sending a disk. Alternatively, material can be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available through the editorial office. For order form, send self-addressed envelope to *Iowa Bird Life*, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010.

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds, 1999 Edition: 5 for \$1.50, postpaid, and other IOU materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 S.W. Westview Drive, Ankeny, IA 50021 (mpwj@gateway.net). Also available at annual meetings.



OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148
Tom Johnson, Vice President, (2001), P.O. Box 1045, Centerville, IA 52544
Jane Clark, Secretary (2000), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325
Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2000), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401
Other members of the Board of Directors: **Dan Dorrance** (2000), **Maridel Jackson** (2001), **Curt Nelson** (2001), **James Scheib** (2000), **Phil Walsh** (2001)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Publications: Harold White (chair), Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg
Records: Ann M. Barker (secretary), Robert I. Cecil, Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Matthew C. Keene, Thomas H. Kent, James Sinclair
Membership: Carol Berrier, Galin Berrier, Barb Bettis, Rita Goranson
Library/Historical: Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

22–24 September 2000, Lakeside Laboratory, Lake Okoboji
Spring 2001, Keosauqua

FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the field reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Kayleen A. Niyo, 1531 Stone Brooke Road, Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process also is available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) — 3 March (Robert I. Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, wewarb@aol.com)

Spring (Mar, Apr, May) — 3 June (Matthew C. Keene, 709 N. Phillips, Algona, IA 50511, meeckeckk@rconnect.com)

Summer (Jun, Jul) — 3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014, oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov) — 3 December (James L. Fuller, 6 Longview Knoll, N.E., Iowa City, IA 52240, james-fuller@uiowa.edu)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions, write Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521 (dinsmore@lamar.colostate.edu).

IOWA BIRDLINE: (319) 338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

IOU HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iowabirds.org>

I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net).

REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is (402) 292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401 (MPauley@jumpgate.net).



